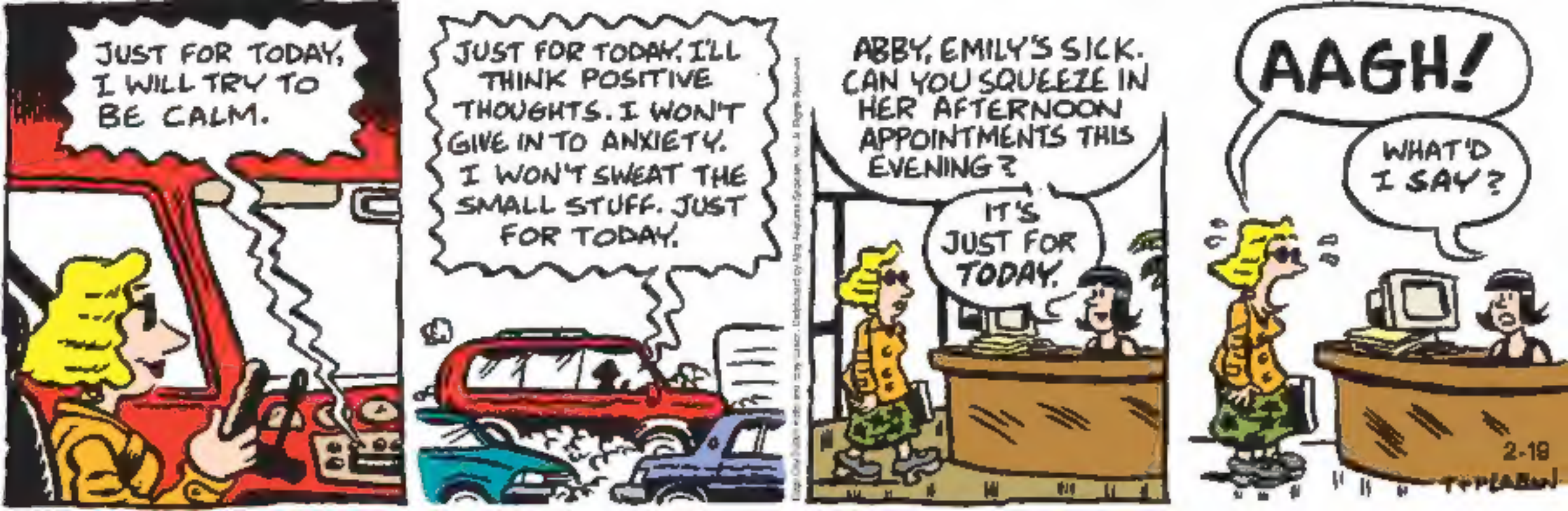
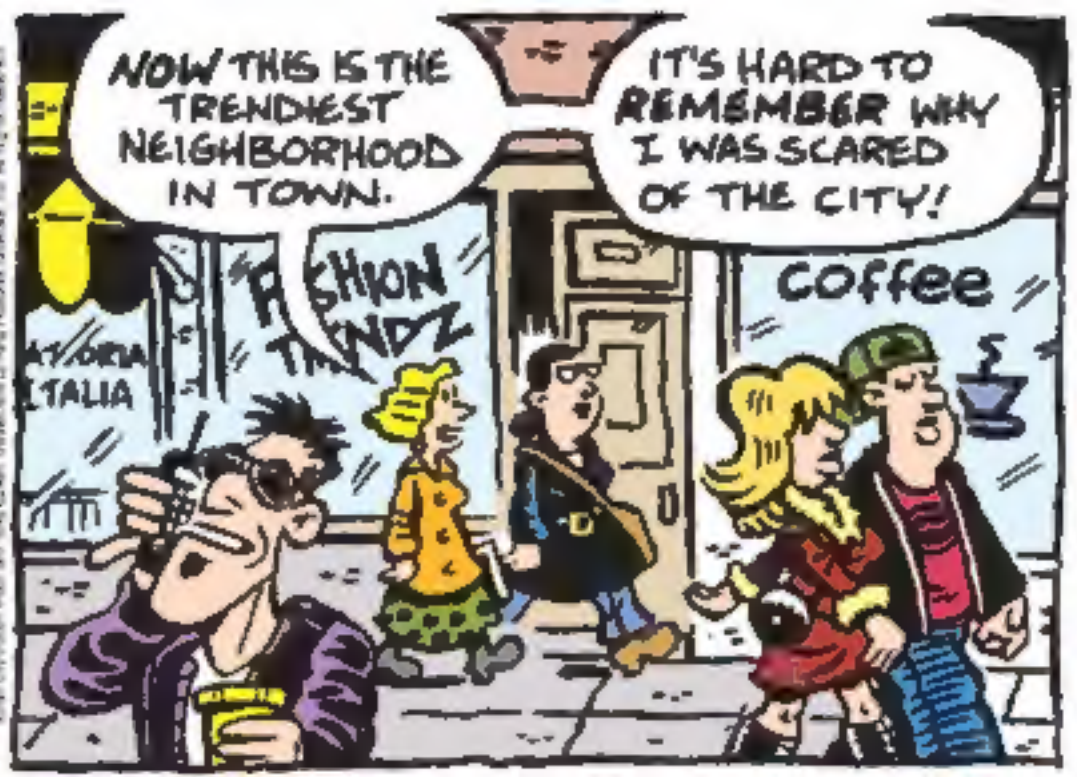
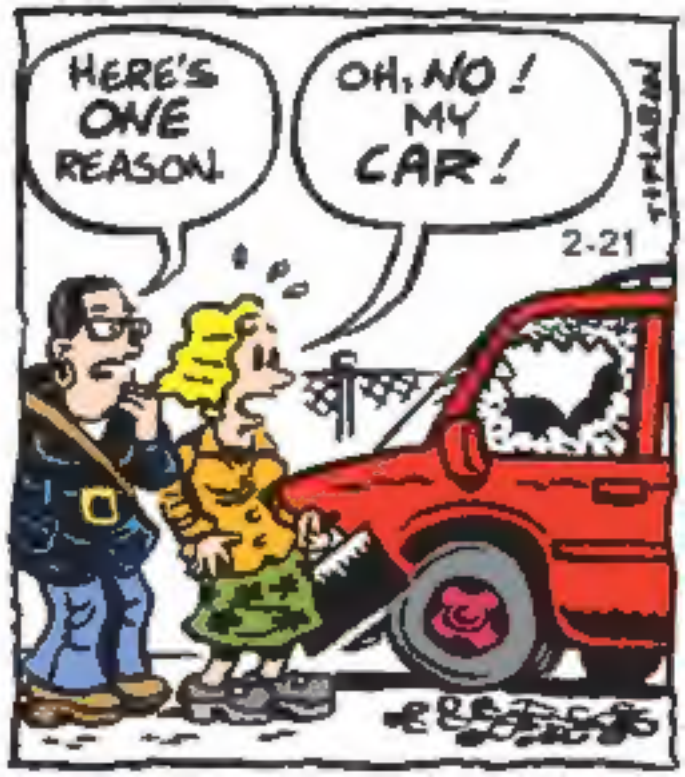

JUST FOR TODAY, I WILL TRY TO BE CALM.
JUST FOR TODAY, I'LL THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS. I WON'T GIVE IN TO ANXIETY. I WON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF. JUST FOR TODAY.
ABBY, EMILY'S SICK. CAN YOU SQUEEZE IN HER AFTERNOON APPOINTMENTS THIS EVENING?
IT'S JUST FOR TODAY.
AAGH!
WHAT'D I SAY?
2-19

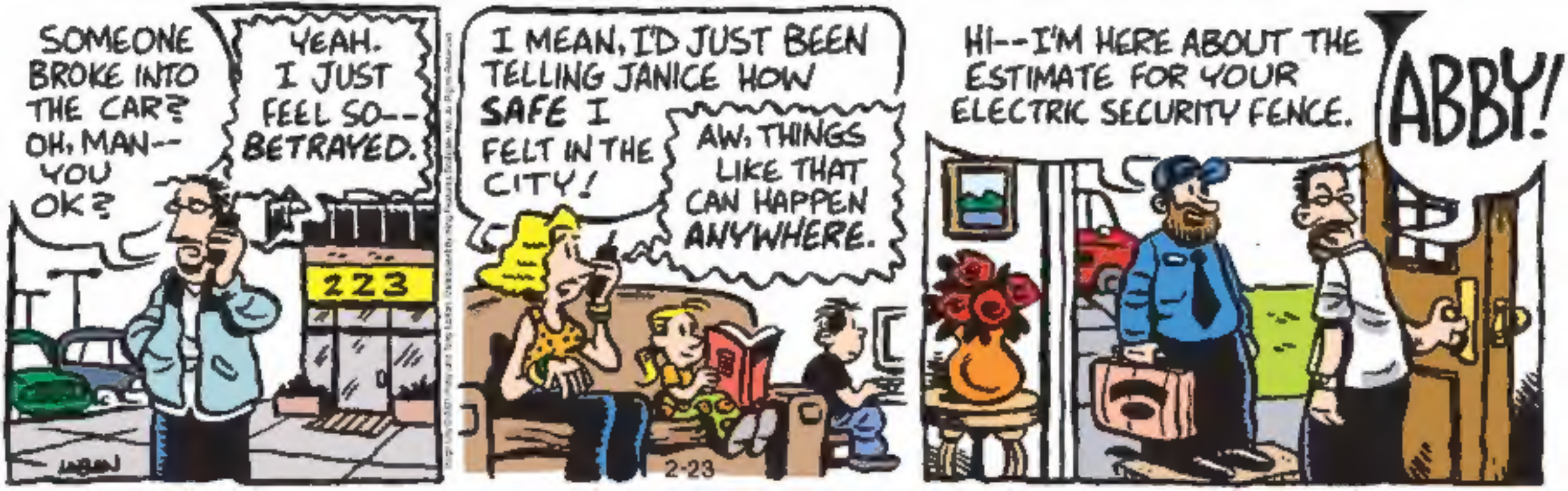
LAST TIME, WE WERE WORKING ON GETTING RANDY TO GO TO SLEEP AT A REASONABLE HOUR. HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT SO WELL.
WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING YOU SUGGESTED--MAKING CHARTS, RELAXATION TECHNIQUES--BUT HE'S STILL AS TIRED AS EVER.
2-20
TIP LARAM
HAVE YOU TAKEN THE 26" TV OUT OF HIS BEDROOM?
ABSOLUTELY. UNTIL THINGS IMPROVE, HE HAS TO MAKE DO WITH THE SMALL ONE FROM THE KITCHEN.
I HATE HAVING TO SQUINT LATE AT NIGHT.

I WAS A LITTLE CONCERNED WHEN WE OPENED THIS OFFICE. TEN YEARS AGO, YOU COULDN'T PAY ME TO COME DOWN HERE.
MENTAL HEALTH


NOW THIS IS THE TRENDIEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN TOWN.
IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER WHY I WAS SCARED OF THE CITY!
FASHION TRENDZ
ITALIA
coffee


HERE'S ONE REASON.
OH, NO! MY CAR!
2-21

CAR BROKEN INTO, HUH? DID YOU HAVE A STEERING WHEEL LOCK?
OH, YEAH!
IT WAS MADE OF SUPER-HARDENED TITANIUM WITH LASER-ACTIVATED USER RECOGNITION! THE BEST MONEY COULD BUY!
DIDN'T KEEP 'EM FROM BREAKING YOUR WINDOW, THOUGH.
WORSE-- IT'S THE ONLY THING THEY STOLE!
T+P LABAN


SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE CAR? OH, MAN-- YOU OK?
YEAH. I JUST FEEL SO-- BETRAYED.
223
I MEAN, I'D JUST BEEN TELLING JANICE HOW SAFE I FELT IN THE CITY!
AW, THINGS LIKE THAT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.
2-23
HI--I'M HERE ABOUT THE ESTIMATE FOR YOUR ELECTRIC SECURITY FENCE.
ABBY!

2455
MENTAL HEALTH
BOY, WHAT A DAY.
WHAT I NEED NOW IS AN HOUR IN FRONT OF THE TV AND A NICE, COOL DRINK!
2-24
SIGH...
TRPLABAN

COLIN MIGHT BE GETTING SICK.
WE SHOULD PLAY IT SAFE AND KEEP HIM HOME TODAY.
SNIFF!
WHY LOSE A WHOLE DAY OF WORK IF WE'RE NOT SURE?
I SAY SEND HIM TO SCHOOL. IF IT TURNS OUT HE'S SICK, WE CAN ALWAYS PICK HIM UP.
NOW THAT'S PLAYING IT SAFE!
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR ME AND YOU.
COUGH! COUGH!
T&P LABAN 2/26

COLIN WAS A LITTLE SICK THIS MORNING, BUT I SENT HIM TO SCHOOL ANYWAY.

IT'S OK, ABBY.

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I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I COULD MISS A DAY OF WORK. WHAT'S *THAT* SAY ABOUT MY PRIORITIES?

ABBY, IT'S OK.

RING!

HELLO--THIS IS THE NURSE AT COLIN'S SCHOOL...

2/27

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tlabac@earthlink.net

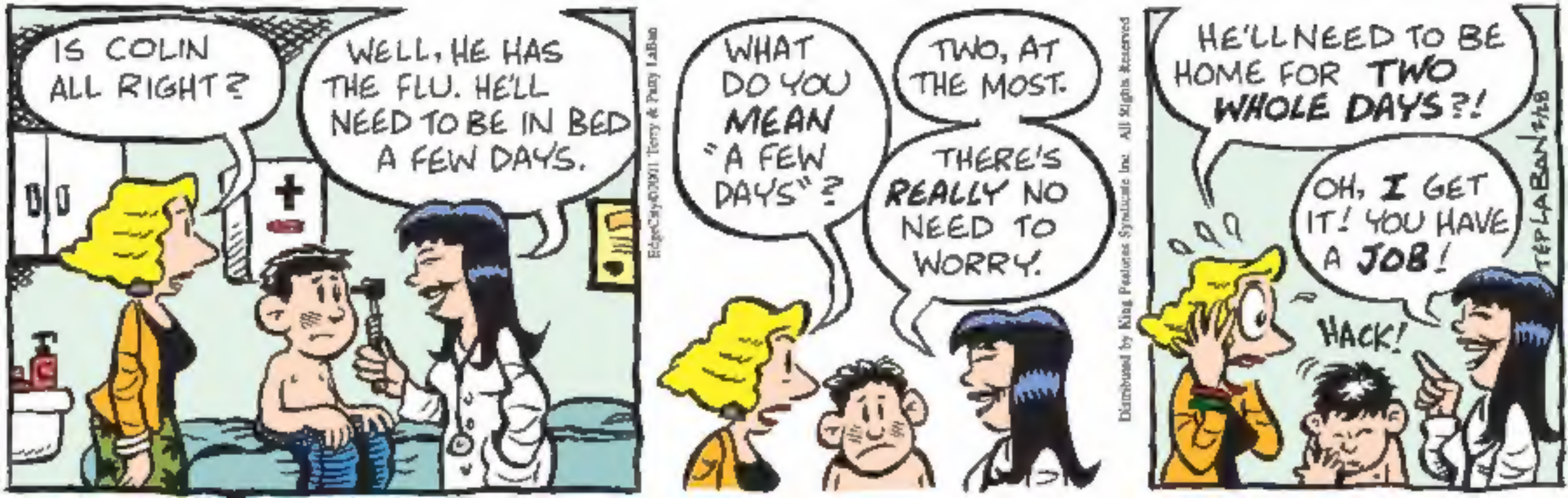
ACTUALLY, I'M A REALLY GOOD MOM.

SURE, MRS. ARDIN. JUST TAKE HIM HOME.

NURSE

HACK!

TRP LABAN



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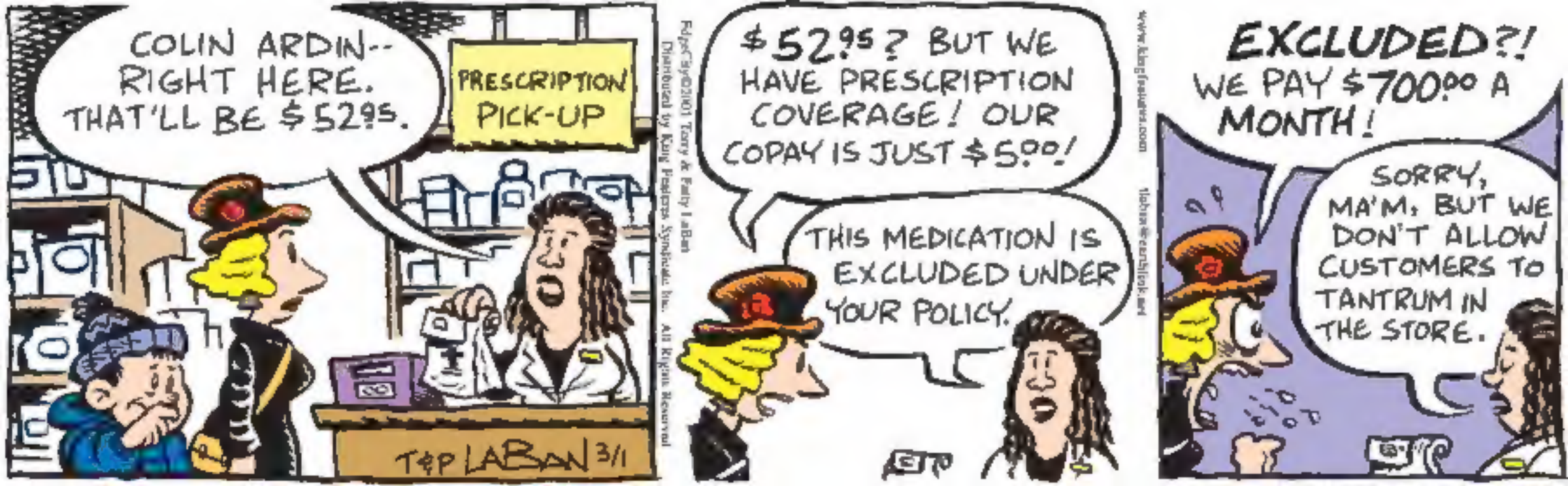

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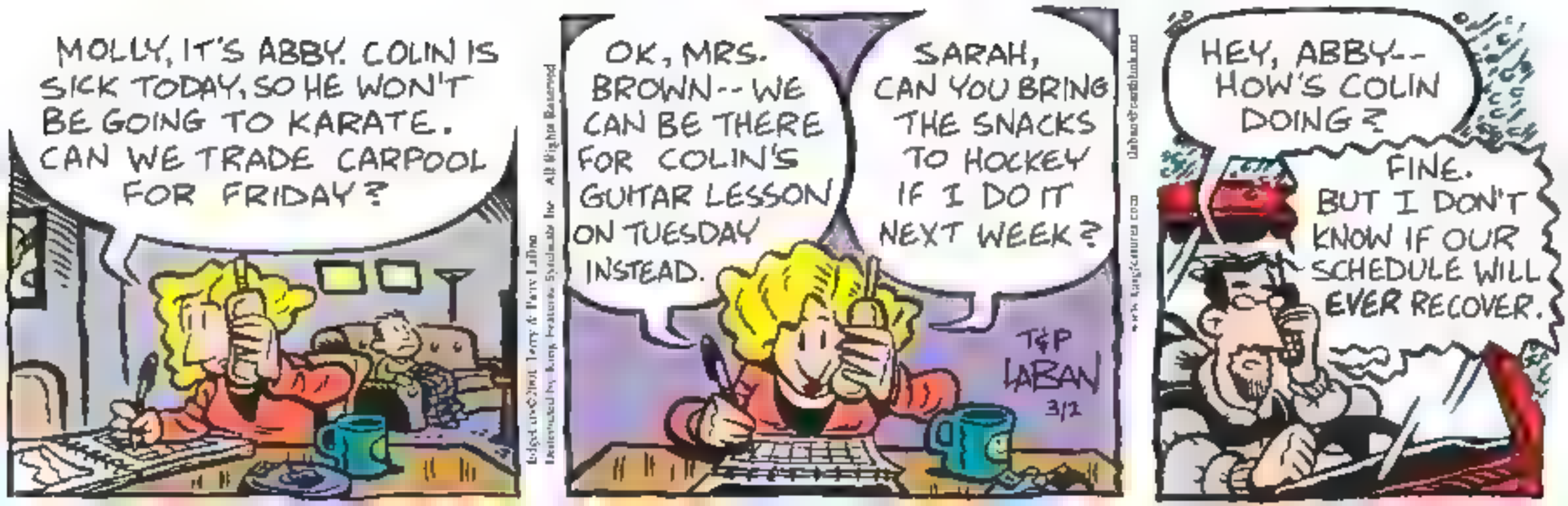
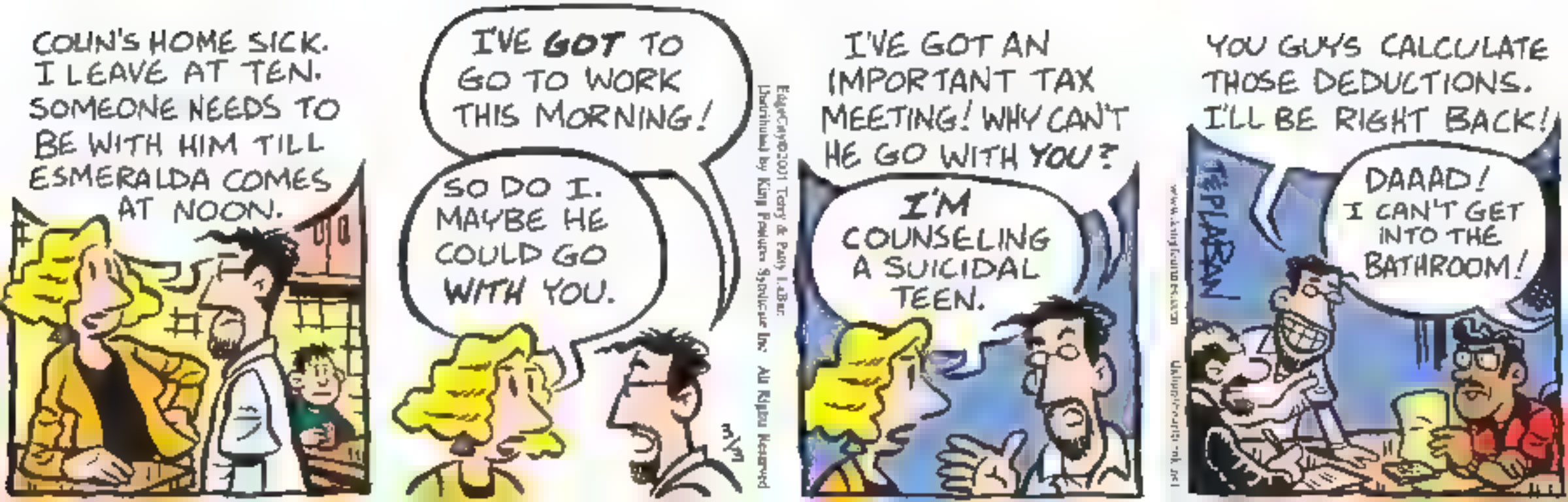
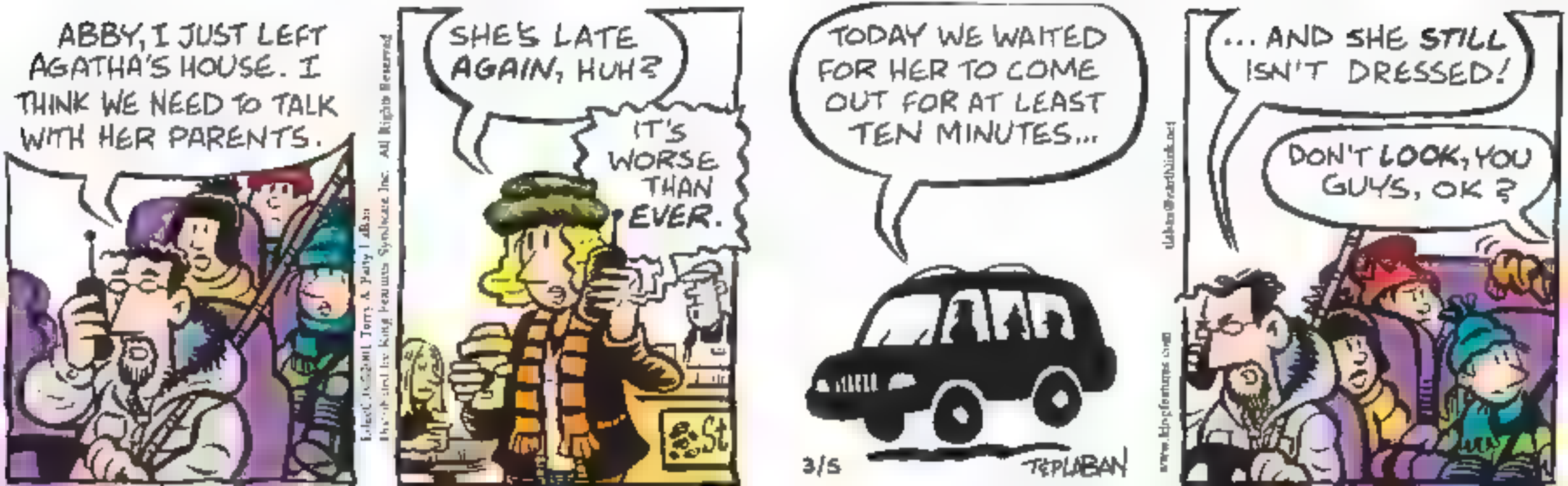
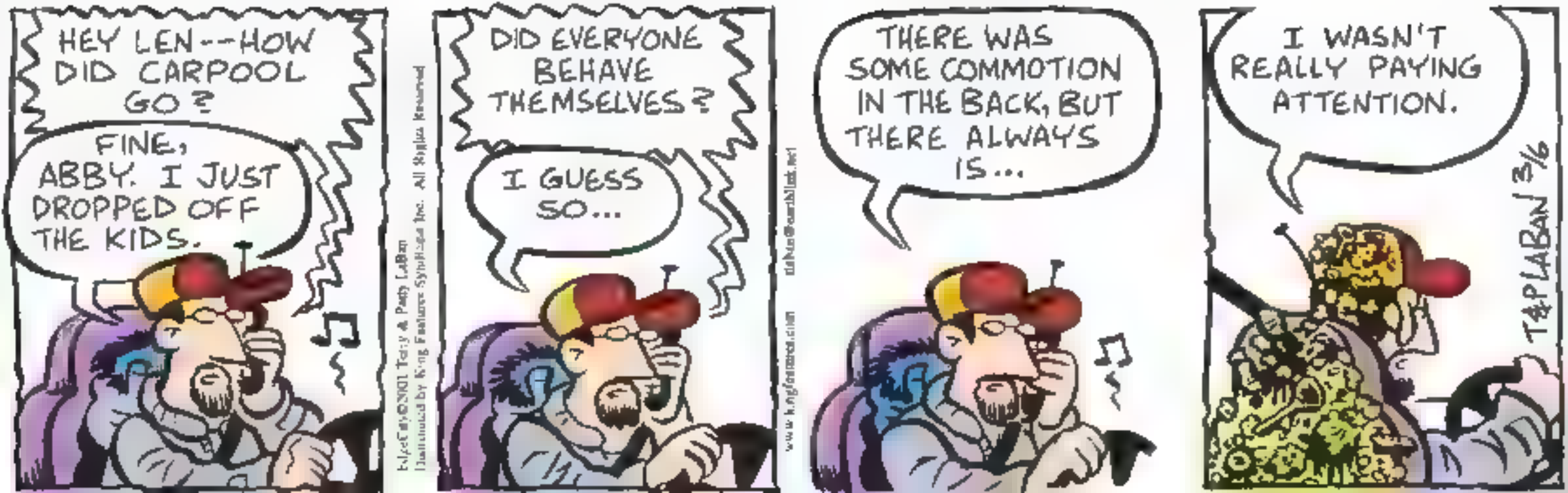
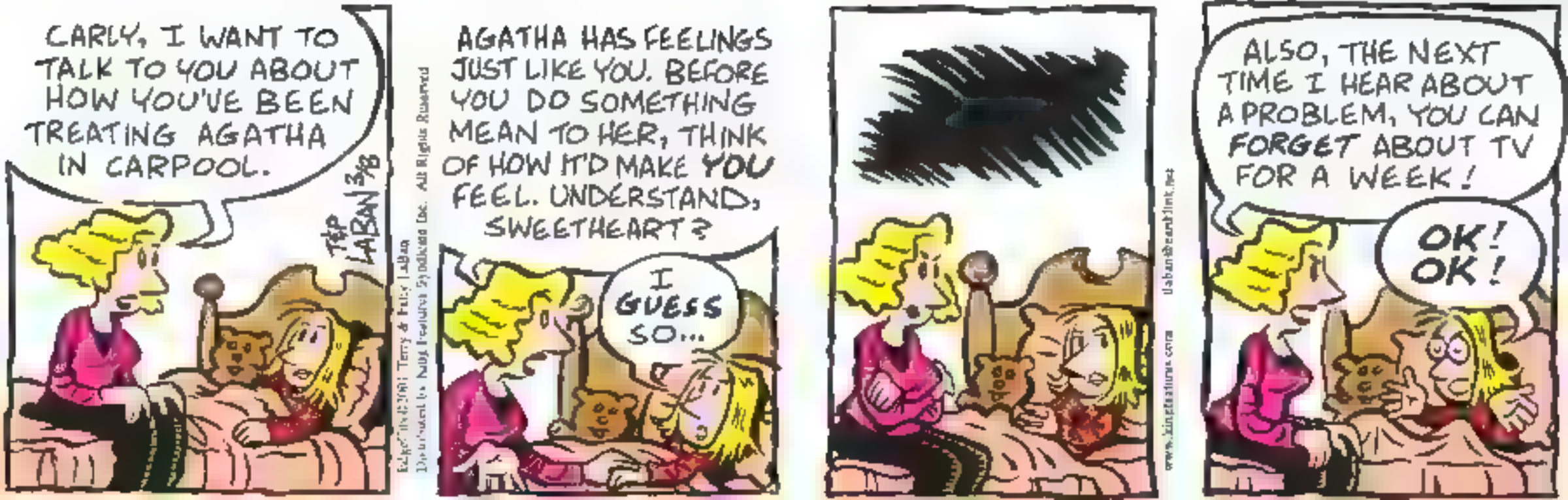

MOLLY, IT'S ABBY. COLIN IS SICK TODAY, SO HE WON'T BE GOING TO KARATE. CAN WE TRADE CARPOOL FOR FRIDAY?
OK, MRS. BROWN -- WE CAN BE THERE FOR COLIN'S GUITAR LESSON ON TUESDAY INSTEAD.
SARAH, CAN YOU BRING THE SNACKS TO HOCKEY IF I DO IT NEXT WEEK?
T&P LABAN 3/2
HEY, ABBY -- HOW'S COLIN DOING?
FINE. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF OUR SCHEDULE WILL EVER RECOVER.

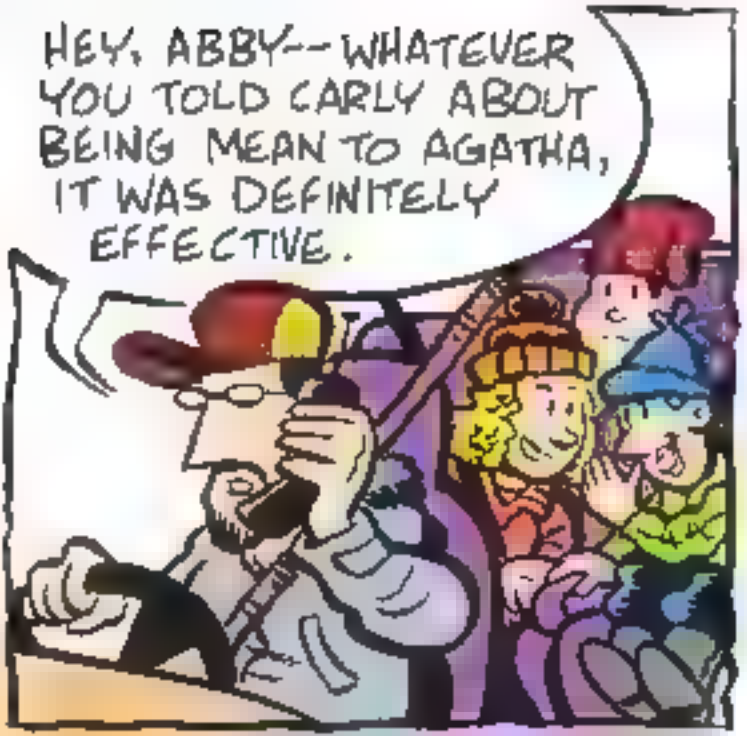

COLIN'S HOME SICK. I LEAVE AT TEN. SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE WITH HIM TILL ESMERALDA COMES AT NOON.
I'VE GOT TO GO TO WORK THIS MORNING!
SO DO I. MAYBE HE COULD GO WITH YOU.
I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT TAX MEETING! WHY CAN'T HE GO WITH YOU?
I'M COUNSELING A SUICIDAL TEEN.
YOU GUYS CALCULATE THOSE DEDUCTIONS. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
DAAAD! I CAN'T GET INTO THE BATHROOM!
THE PLAYBOY


ABBY, I JUST LEFT AGATHA'S HOUSE. I THINK WE NEED TO TALK WITH HER PARENTS.
SHE'S LATE AGAIN, HUH?
IT'S WORSE THAN EVER.
TODAY WE WAITED FOR HER TO COME OUT FOR AT LEAST TEN MINUTES...
3/5
TEPLABAN
... AND SHE STILL ISN'T DRESSED!
DON'T LOOK, YOU GUYS, OK?


HEY LEN--HOW DID CARPOOL GO?
FINE, ABBY. I JUST DROPPED OFF THE KIDS.
DID EVERYONE BEHAVE THEMSELVES?
I GUESS SO...
THERE WAS SOME COMMOTION IN THE BACK, BUT THERE ALWAYS IS...
I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.
T&P LABAN 3/6

GUESS WHAT? AGATHA'S MOM JUST CALLED ABOUT WHY AGATHA'S BEEN LATE FOR CARPOOL.
OH, YEAH?
IS IT THAT THEY JUST CAN'T RESIST SLEEPING LATE? OR THAT THEY'RE HOPELESSLY DISORGANIZED?
OR DID SHE JUST BEG FORGIVENESS FOR INCONVENIENCING EVERYONE, AND LEAVE IT AT THAT?
NO...
T&PLABAN 3/7
SHE SAID AGATHA TOLD HER THAT CARLY'S SO MEAN, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GET IN THE CAR.
SO I PINCH HER EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE! WHAT A BABY!


CARLY, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT HOW YOU'VE BEEN TREATING AGATHA IN CARPOOL.
TERRY LABAN 3/18
AGATHA HAS FEELINGS JUST LIKE YOU. BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING MEAN TO HER, THINK OF HOW IT'D MAKE YOU FEEL. UNDERSTAND, SWEETHEART?
I GUESS SO...
ALSO, THE NEXT TIME I HEAR ABOUT A PROBLEM, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT TV FOR A WEEK!
OK! OK!



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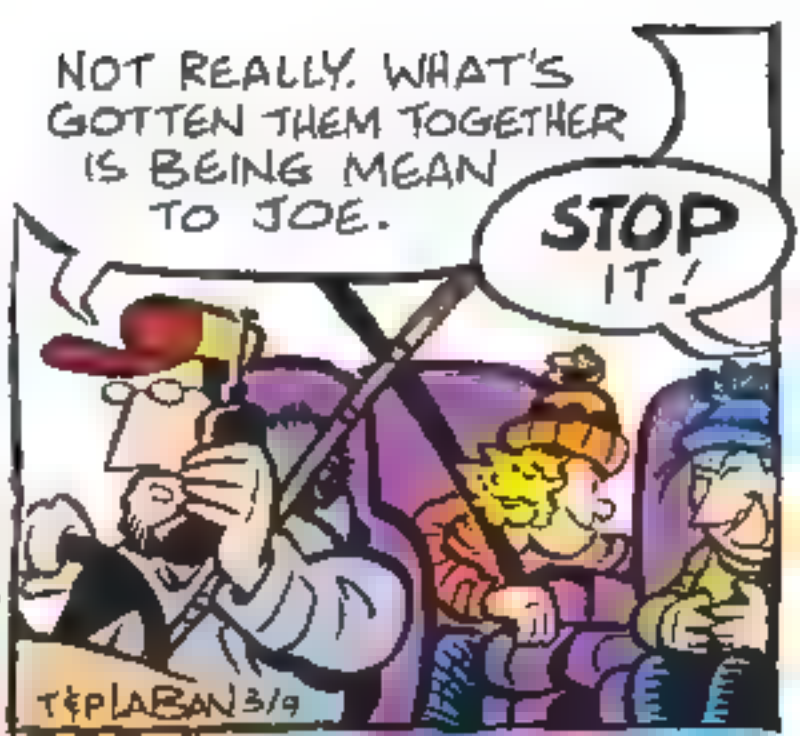
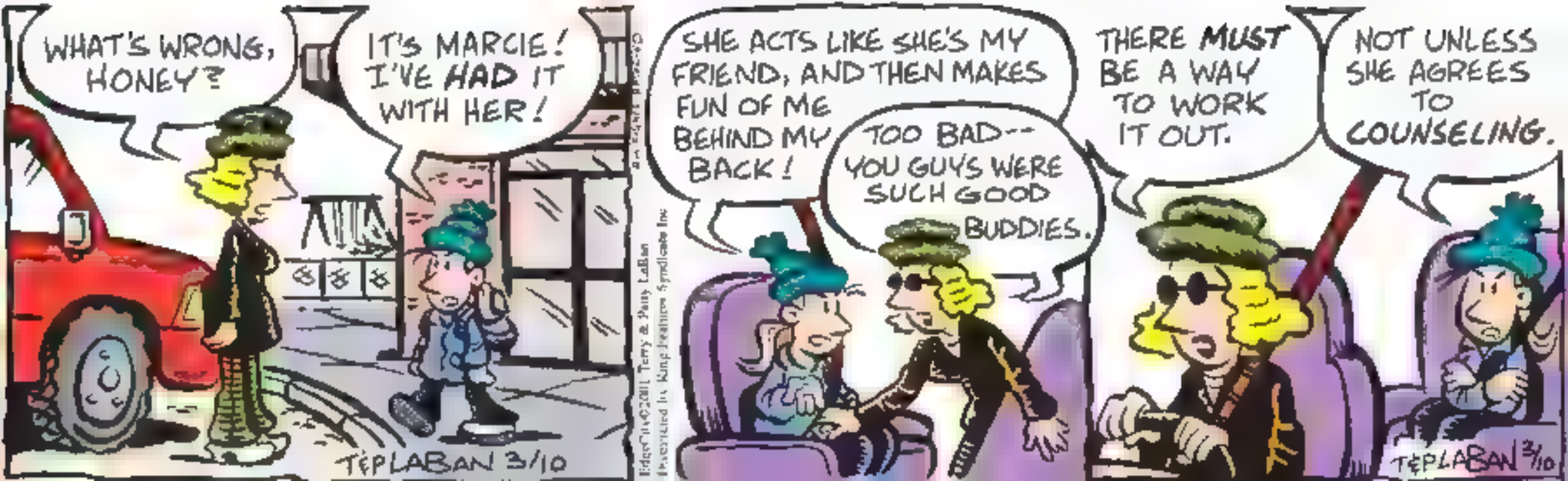
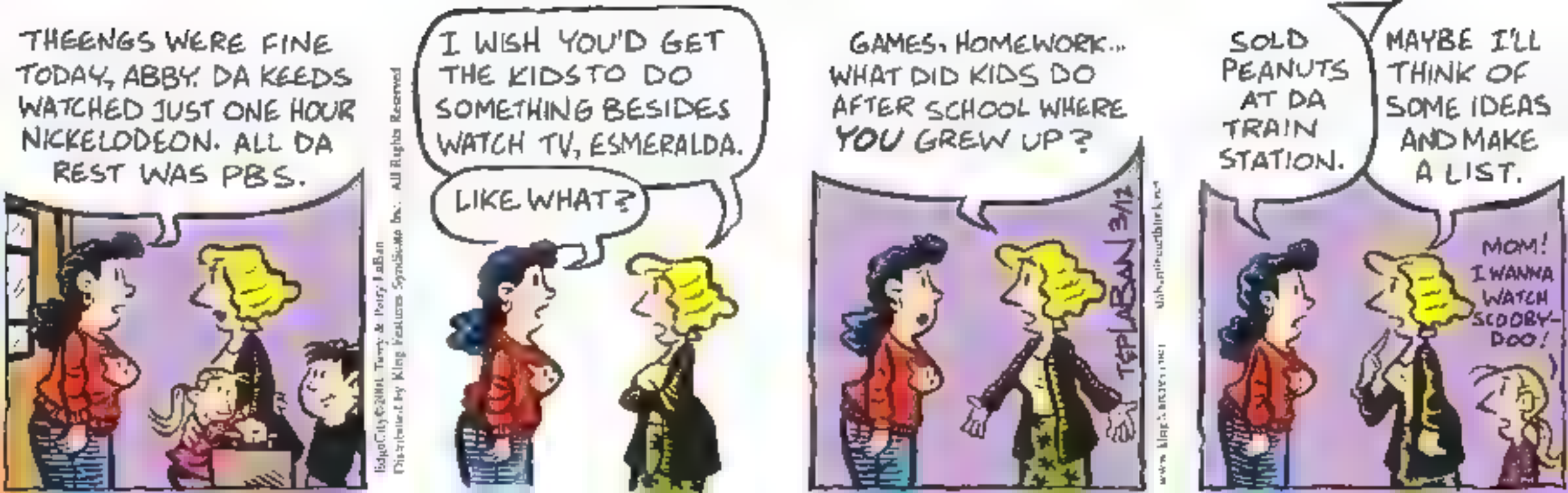



WHAT'S WRONG, HONEY?
IT'S MARCIE! I'VE HAD IT WITH HER!
TEPLABAN 3/10
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE'S MY FRIEND, AND THEN MAKES FUN OF ME BEHIND MY BACK!
TOO BAD-- YOU GUYS WERE SUCH GOOD BUDDIES.
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO WORK IT OUT.
NOT UNLESS SHE AGREES TO COUNSELING.
TEPLABAN 3/10



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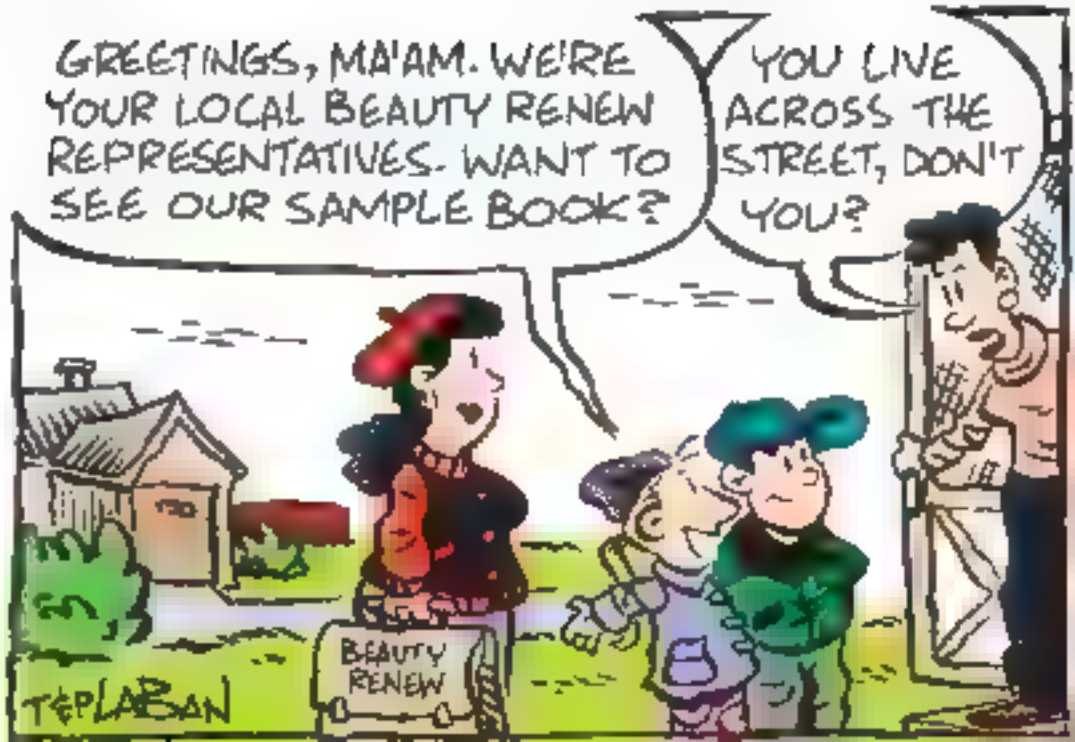
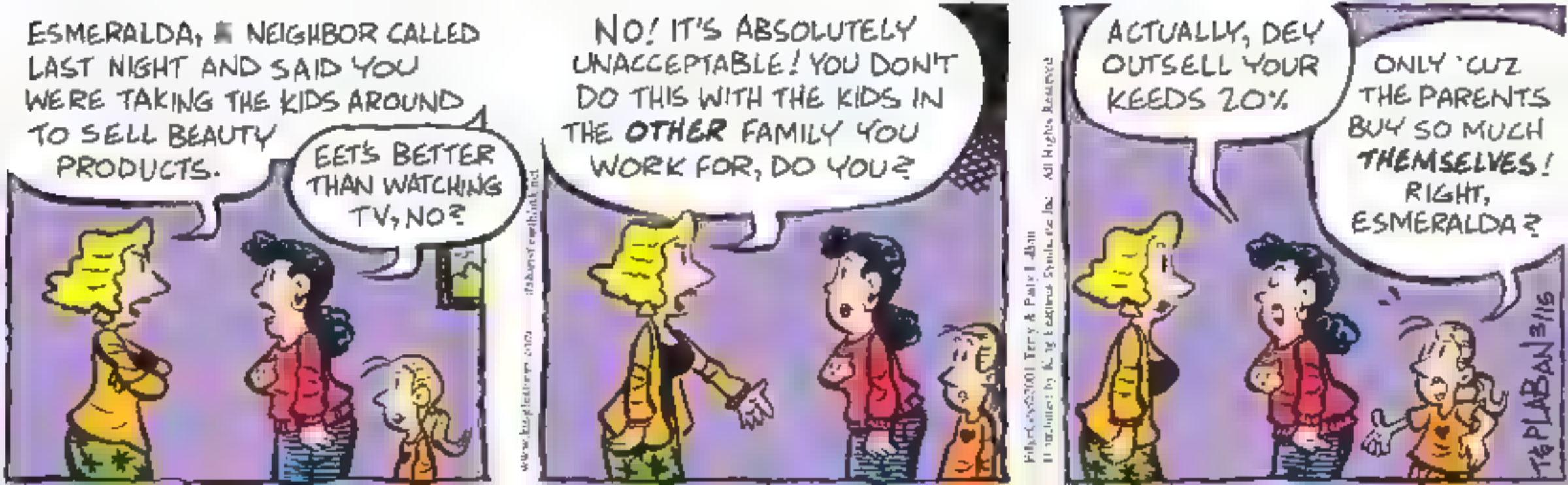
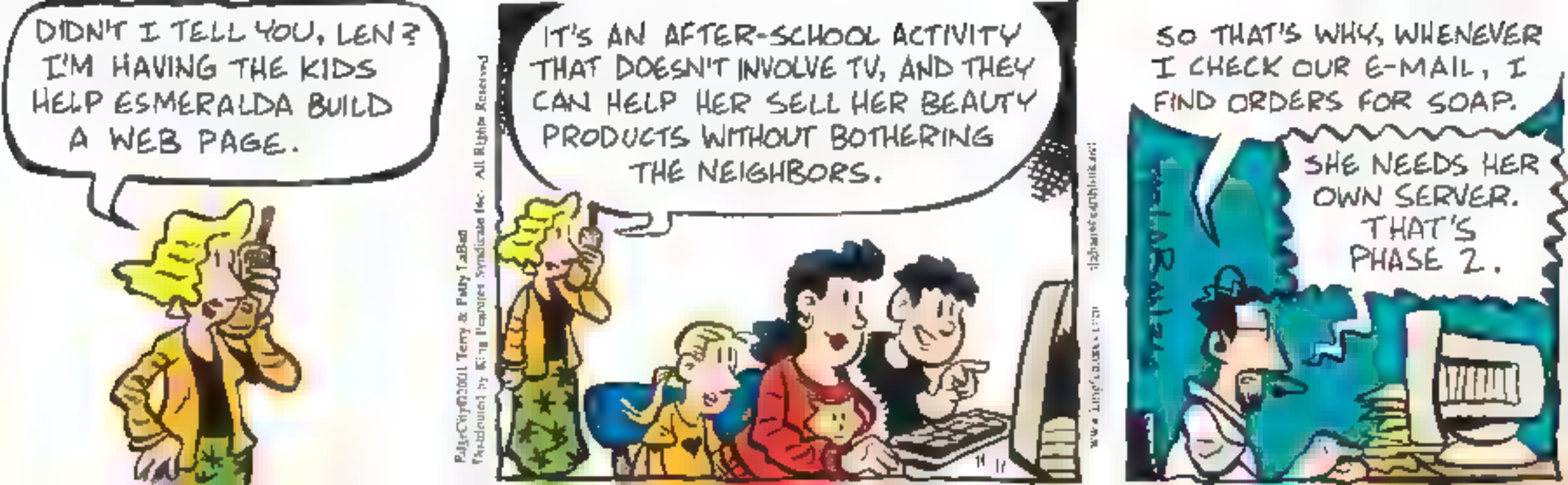
ESMERALDA, IT'S NOT GOOD TO LET THE KIDS WATCH SO MUCH TV. GET THEM TO GO OUTSIDE A LITTLE.
OUTSIDE? BUT, ABBY...
DEY CAN GET HIT BY CAR OR KEEDNAPPED BY STRANGER. SAFE IN HOUSE BETTER, NO?
NO! THEY NEED EXERCISE AND FRESH AIR! TAKE THEM OUT TOMORROW, ALL RIGHT?
=SIGH= SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT WOMAN!
TEPLABAN 3/13

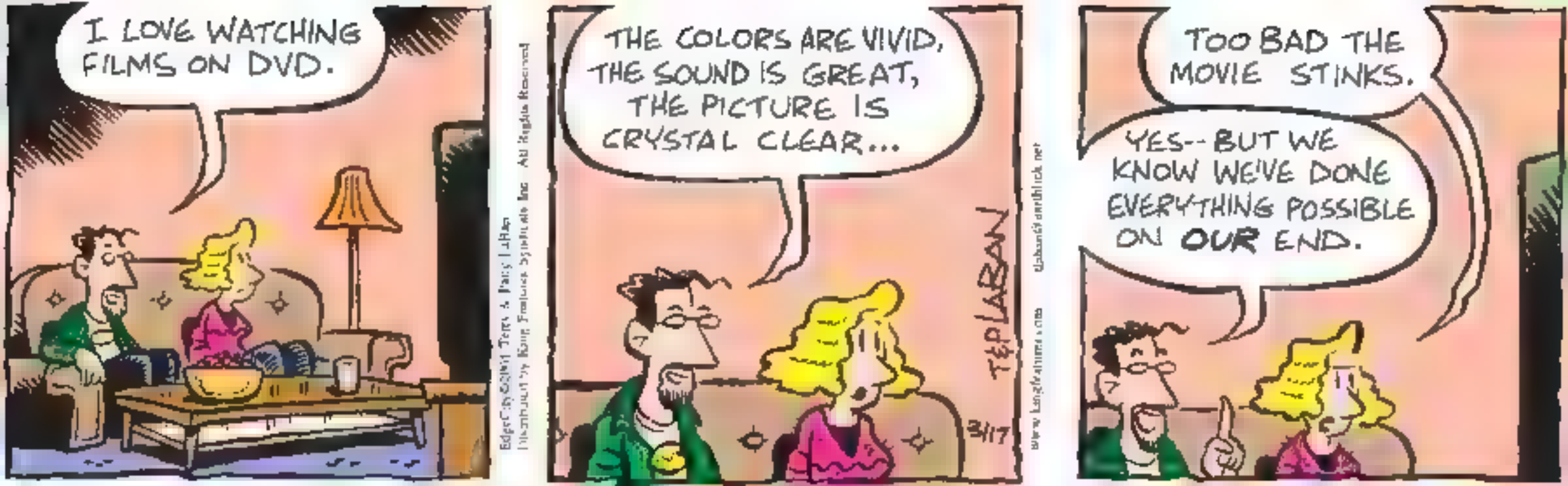
I TOLD ESMERALDA SHE NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING WITH THE KIDS BESIDES WATCH TV.

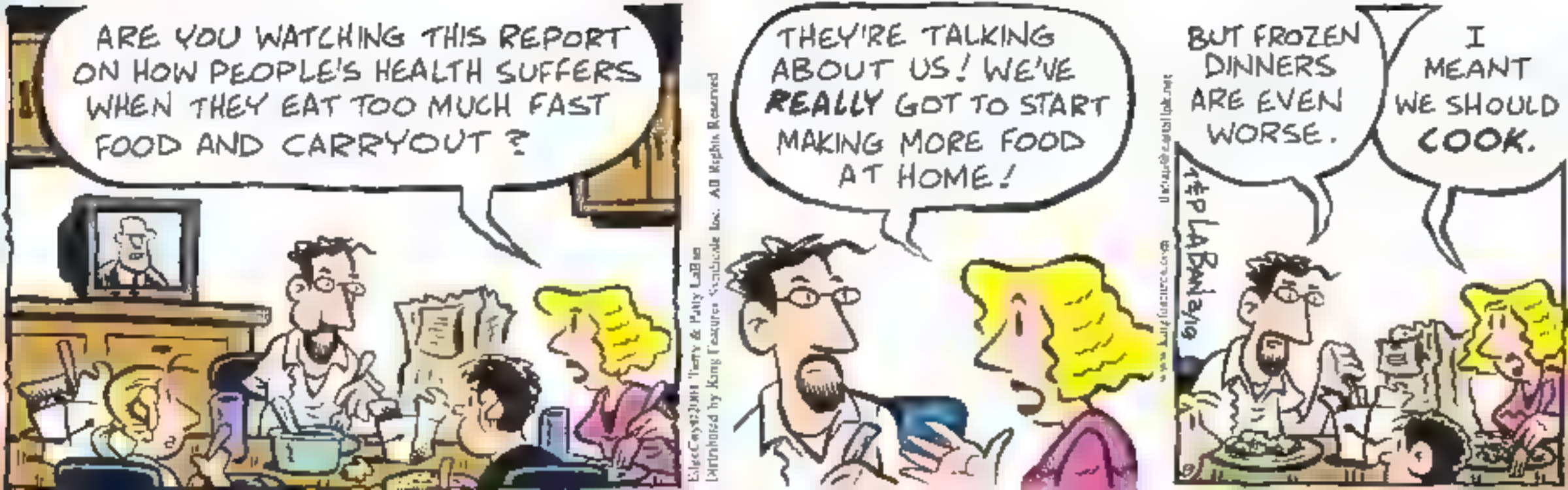
TODAY SHE SHOWED UP WITH A BIG BAG OF FOLDERS AND SEEMED VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.
COOL. I WONDER WHAT SHE HAS PLANNED.
3/14


GREETINGS, MA'AM. WE'RE YOUR LOCAL BEAUTY RENEW REPRESENTATIVES. WANT TO SEE OUR SAMPLE BOOK?
YOU LIVE ACROSS THE STREET, DON'T YOU?
BEAUTY RENEW
TEPLABAN


ESMERALDA, A NEIGHBOR CALLED LAST NIGHT AND SAID YOU WERE TAKING THE KIDS AROUND TO SELL BEAUTY PRODUCTS.
EET'S BETTER THAN WATCHING TV, NO?
NO! IT'S ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE! YOU DON'T DO THIS WITH THE KIDS IN THE OTHER FAMILY YOU WORK FOR, DO YOU?
ACTUALLY, DEY OUTSELL YOUR KEEDS 20%.
ONLY 'CUZ THE PARENTS BUY SO MUCH THEMSELVES! RIGHT, ESMERALDA?
T&PLABAN 3/16


DIDN'T I TELL YOU, LEN? I'M HAVING THE KIDS HELP ESMERALDA BUILD A WEB PAGE.
IT'S AN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE TV, AND THEY CAN HELP HER SELL HER BEAUTY PRODUCTS WITHOUT BOTHERING THE NEIGHBORS.
SO THAT'S WHY, WHENEVER I CHECK OUR E-MAIL, I FIND ORDERS FOR SOAP.
SHE NEEDS HER OWN SERVER. THAT'S PHASE 2.


I LOVE WATCHING FILMS ON DVD.
THE COLORS ARE VIVID, THE SOUND IS GREAT, THE PICTURE IS CRYSTAL CLEAR...
TEPLABAN
3/17
TOO BAD THE MOVIE STINKS.
YES-- BUT WE KNOW WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE ON OUR END.



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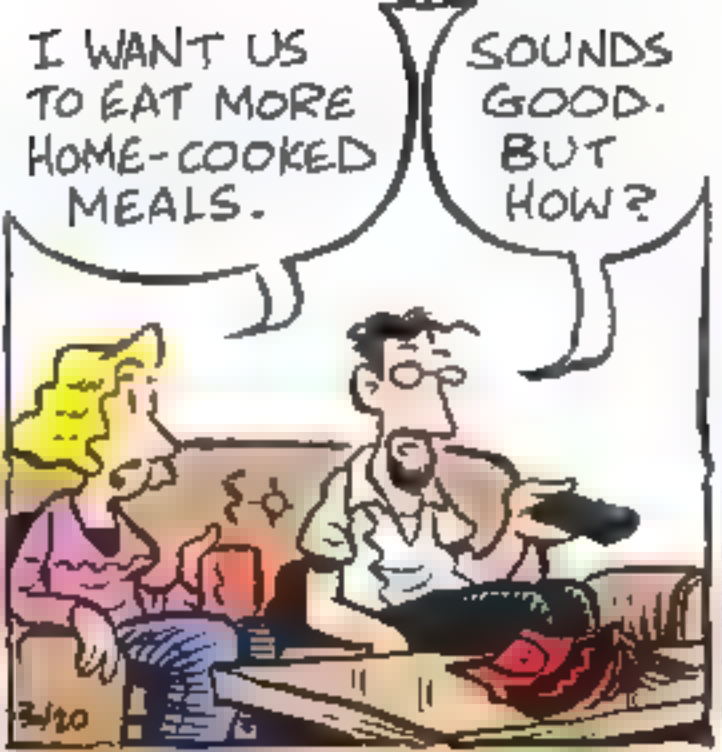

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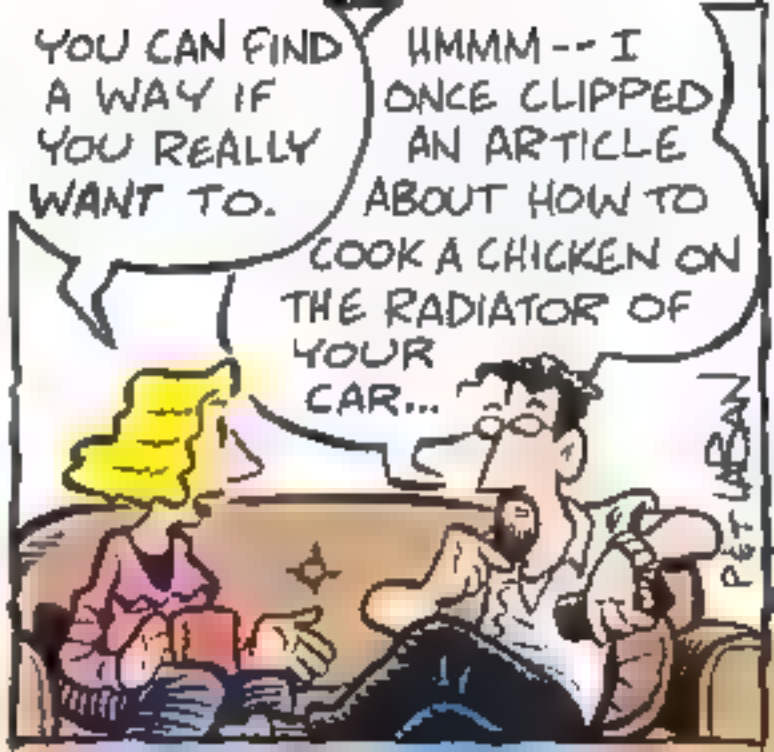

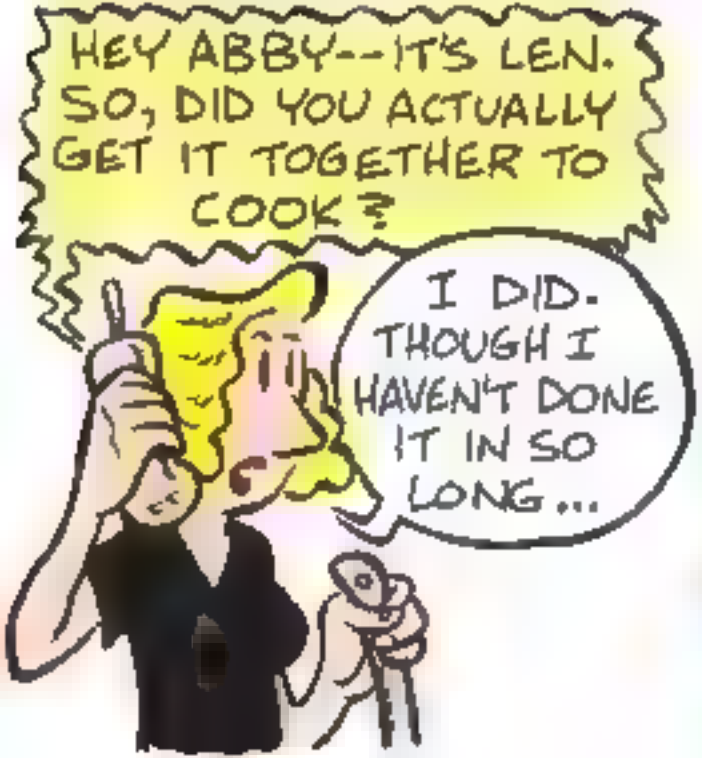

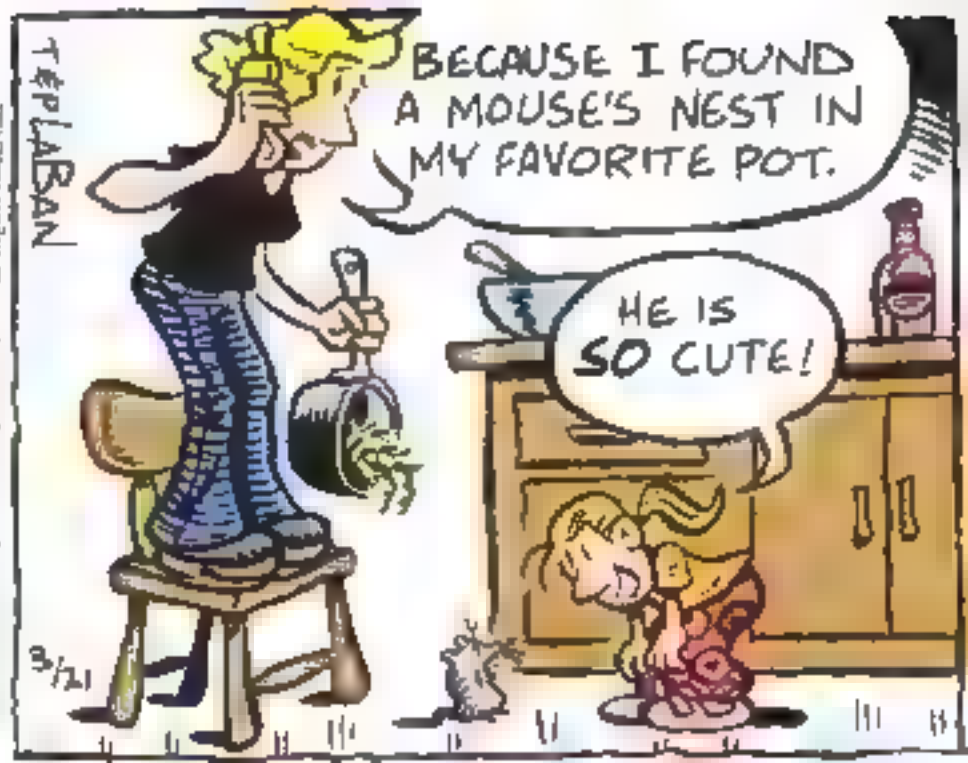

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THIS IS EXCELLENT, ABBY! WE'VE BEEN LIVING ON FAST FOOD SO LONG, I HARDLY REMEMBER HOW GOOD IT IS TO EAT A HOME-COOKED MEAL!
WE'RE NOT GONNA EAT LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME, ARE WE?
WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU LIKE YOUR MOM'S COOKING?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. BUT IT DOESN'T COME WITH A TOY.
T&P LaRue 3/22
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Y'KNOW, ABBY, I'VE BEEN KIND OF DREADING HAVING TO COOK ONCE A WEEK. IT SEEMED LIKE A REAL CHORE.
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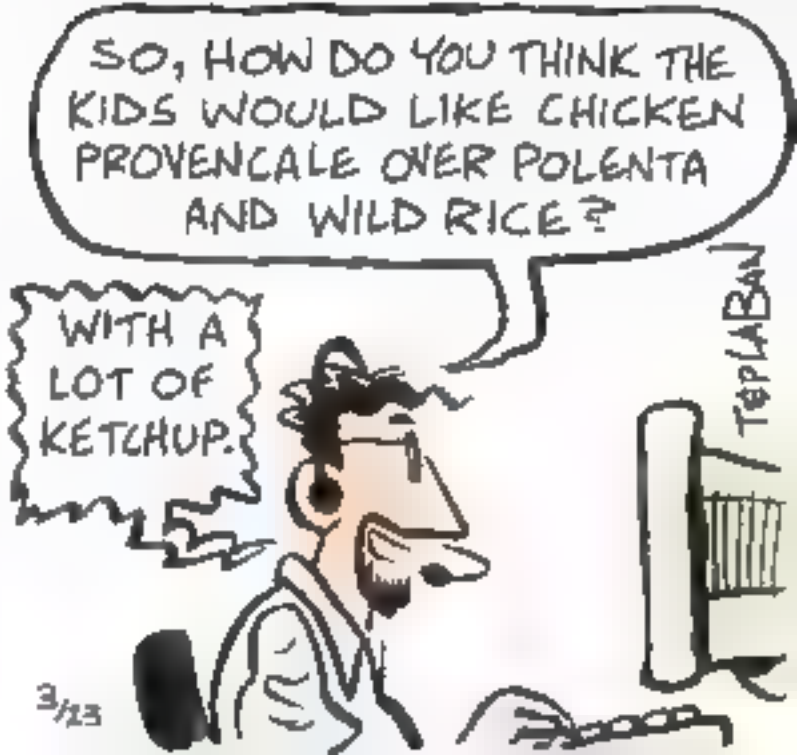
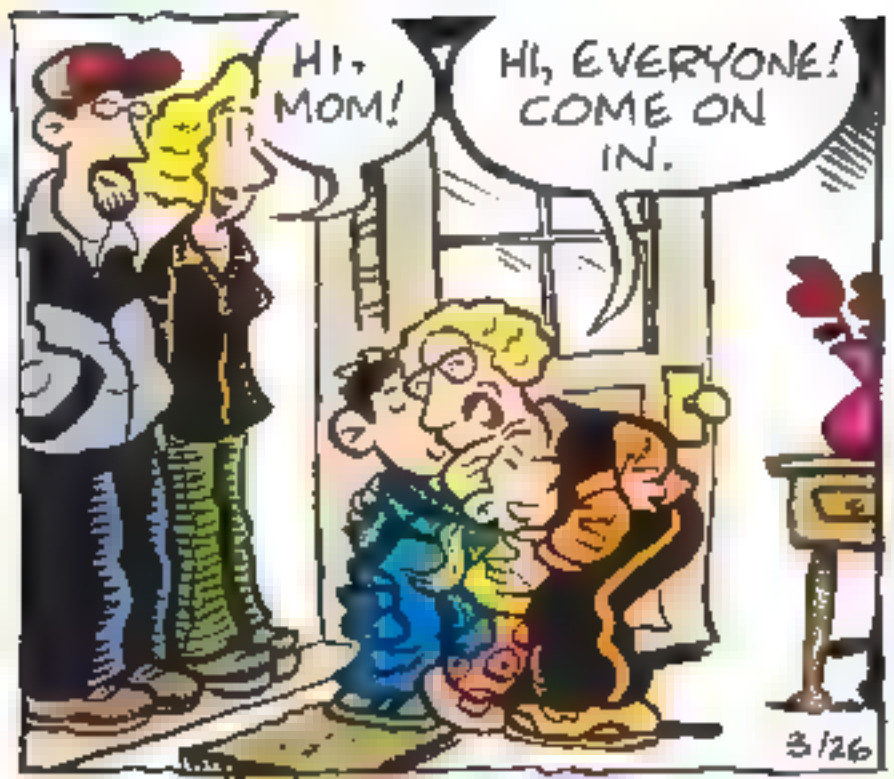
BUT I'VE BEEN LOOKING UP RECIPES ON THE INTERNET, AND NOW I'M PSYCHED. IT'LL BE FUN IF I MAKE IT INTERESTING FOR MYSELF.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!
www.topkatches.com
Dahua@earthlink.net


SO, HOW DO YOU THINK THE KIDS WOULD LIKE CHICKEN PROVENCALE OVER POLENTA AND WILD RICE?
WITH A LOT OF KETCHUP.
TOPLABAN
3/13

YOU'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO ME-- I'M ONE GREAT DAD!
I AGREED TO COOK ONE NIGHT A WEEK, AND BY GOSH, I'M DOING IT!
3/24
IT WASN'T EASY-- THERE WERE OTHER THINGS I WANTED TO DO. BUT I'VE MADE SUPPER, AND A FINE SUPPER IT IS!
NEXT TIME, THOUGH, I THINK I'LL TRY A SIMPLER RECIPE.
JEEZ, DAD-- WHAT'S WITH THE FANCY BREAKFAST?
TEPLABAN



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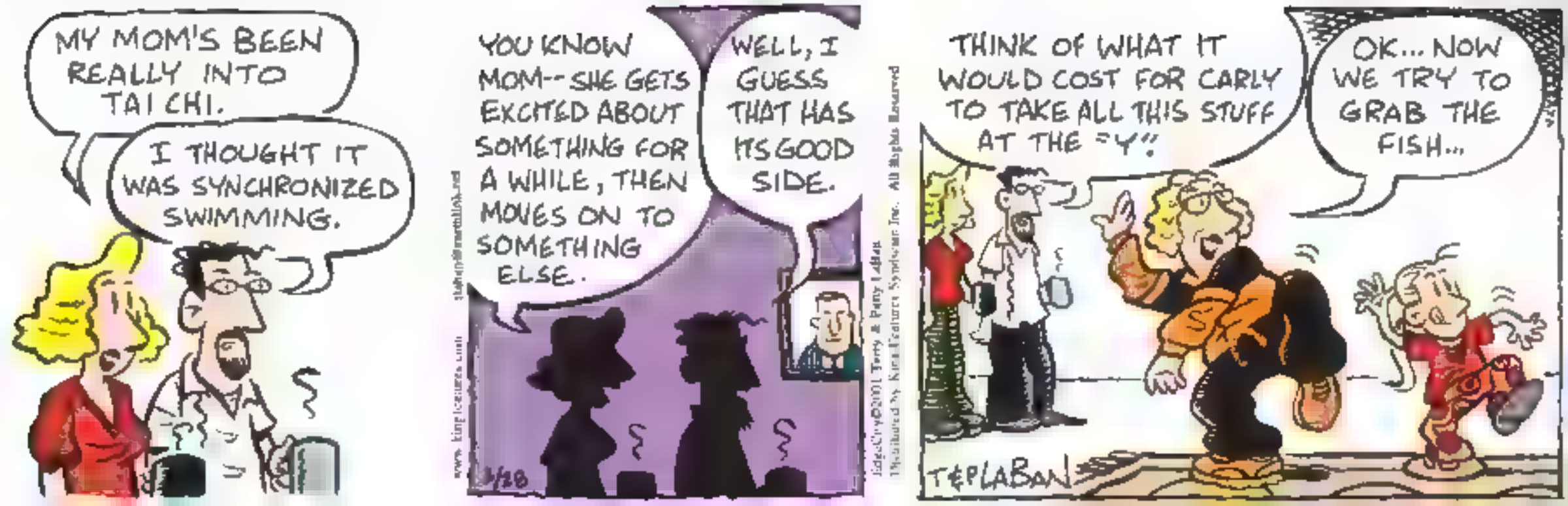
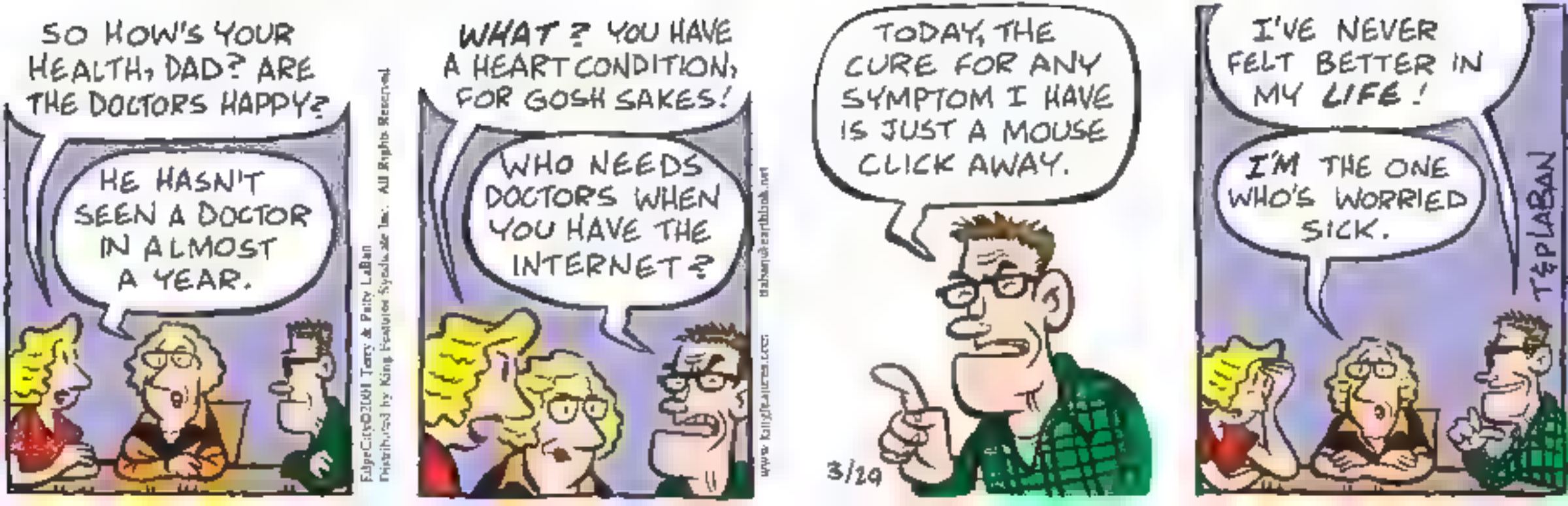
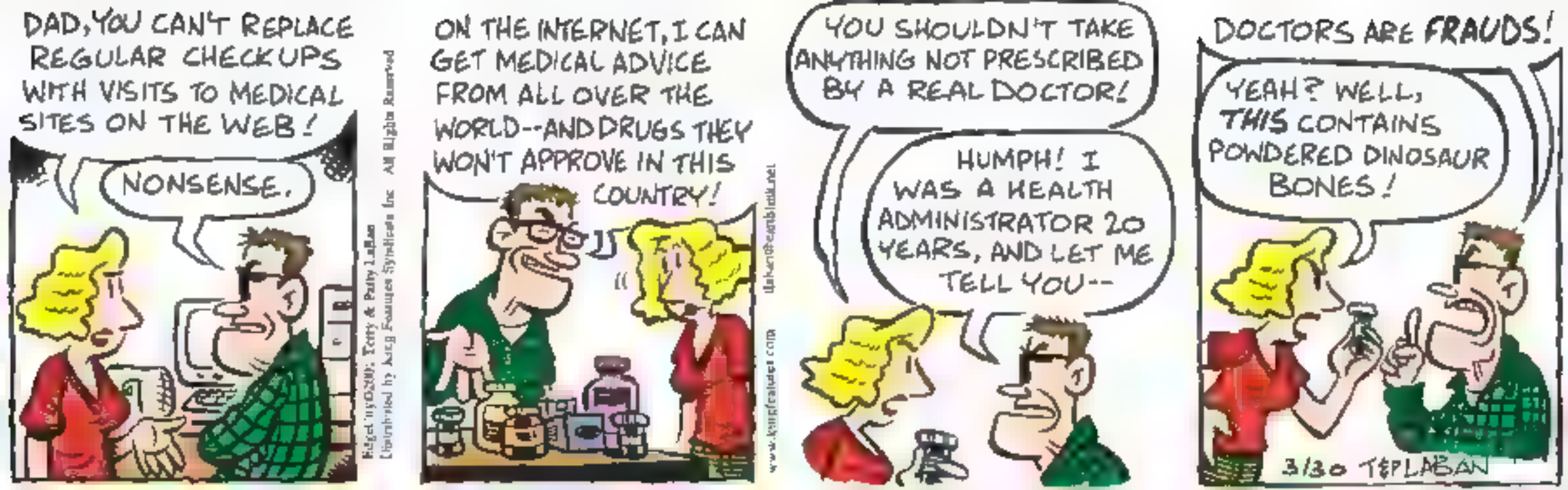
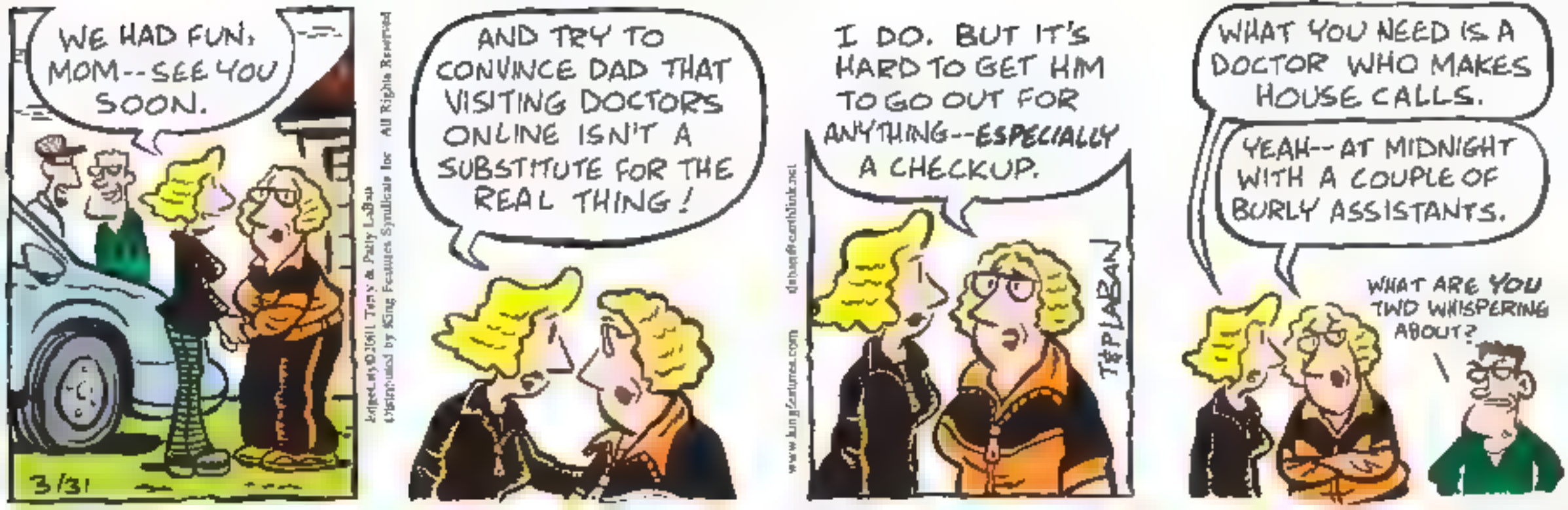

MY MOM'S BEEN REALLY INTO TAI CHI.
I THOUGHT IT WAS SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING.
YOU KNOW MOM--SHE GETS EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING FOR A WHILE, THEN MOVES ON TO SOMETHING ELSE.
WELL, I GUESS THAT HAS ITS GOOD SIDE.
THINK OF WHAT IT WOULD COST FOR CARLY TO TAKE ALL THIS STUFF AT THE "Y".
OK... NOW WE TRY TO GRAB THE FISH...
T&PLABAN


SO HOW'S YOUR HEALTH, DAD? ARE THE DOCTORS HAPPY?
HE HASN'T SEEN A DOCTOR IN ALMOST A YEAR.
WHAT ? YOU HAVE A HEART CONDITION, FOR GOSH SAKES!
WHO NEEDS DOCTORS WHEN YOU HAVE THE INTERNET ?
TODAY, THE CURE FOR ANY SYMPTOM I HAVE IS JUST A MOUSE CLICK AWAY.
3/29
I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE !
I'M THE ONE WHO'S WORRIED SICK.
T&P LaBan


DAD, YOU CAN'T REPLACE REGULAR CHECKUPS WITH VISITS TO MEDICAL SITES ON THE WEB!
NONSENSE.
ON THE INTERNET, I CAN GET MEDICAL ADVICE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD--AND DRUGS THEY WON'T APPROVE IN THIS COUNTRY!
YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE ANYTHING NOT PRESCRIBED BY A REAL DOCTOR!
HUMPH! I WAS A HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR 20 YEARS, AND LET ME TELL YOU--
DOCTORS ARE FRAUDS!
YEAH? WELL, THIS CONTAINS POWDERED DINOSAUR BONES!
3/30 T&P LABAN


WE HAD FUN, MOM--SEE YOU SOON.
3/31
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AND TRY TO CONVINCE DAD THAT VISITING DOCTORS ONLINE ISN'T A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REAL THING!
www.kingfeatures.com
tplaban@earthlink.net
I DO. BUT IT'S HARD TO GET HIM TO GO OUT FOR ANYTHING--ESPECIALLY A CHECKUP.
T&PLABAN
WHAT YOU NEED IS A DOCTOR WHO MAKES HOUSE CALLS.
YEAH--AT MIDNIGHT WITH A COUPLE OF BURLY ASSISTANTS.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO WHISPERING ABOUT?

YOU SURE YOU CAN TAKE CARLY OUT THIS MORNING?

WHY NOT? THE NICE PART ABOUT OWNING YOUR OWN BUSINESS IS YOU CAN GO IN WHENEVER YOU WANT.

RING!

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LEN, IT'S RAJIV--WE'VE GOT 3 LATE DELIVERIES AND NO ONE CAN FIND THE **DRIVER**!

4/2

THEN THERE'S THE NOT-SO-NICE PART...

I WANNA GO TO THE PARK!

TEPLABAN

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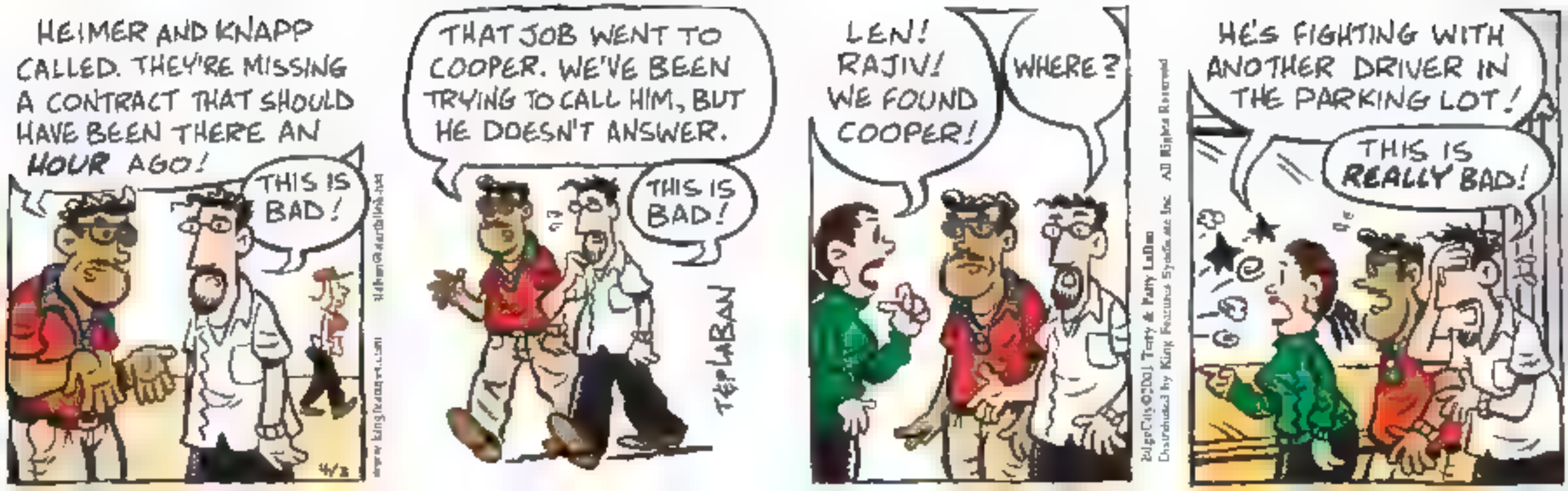
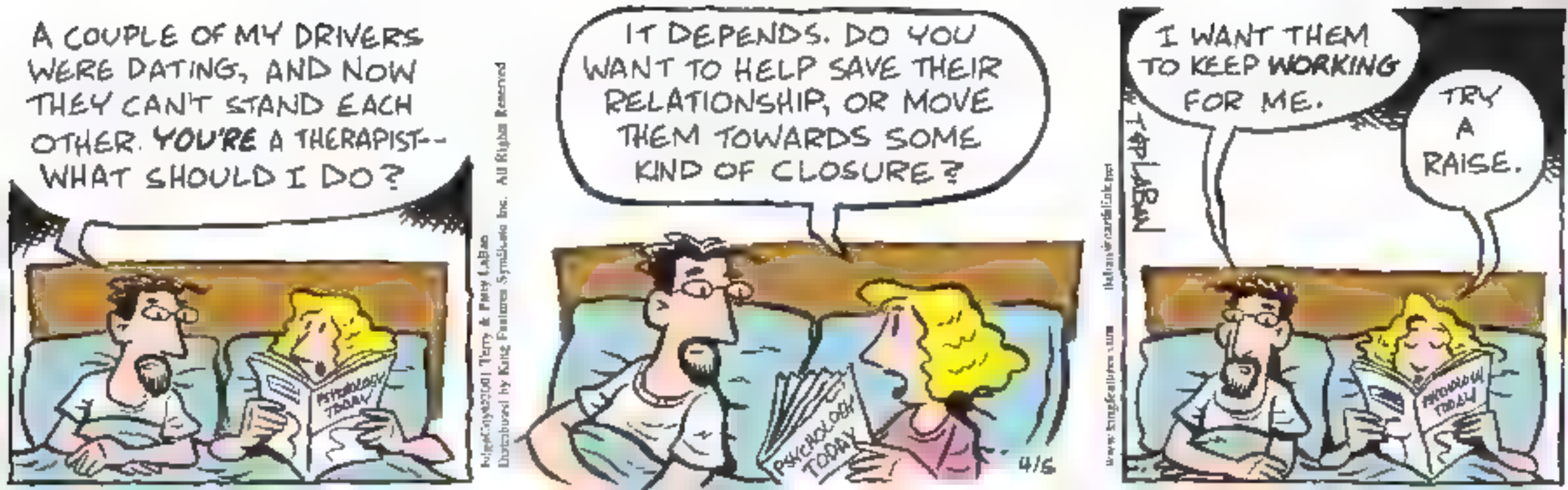

HEIMER AND KNAPP CALLED. THEY'RE MISSING A CONTRACT THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE AN HOUR AGO!
THIS IS BAD!
THAT JOB WENT TO COOPER. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T ANSWER.
THIS IS BAD!
TERRY LABAN
LEN! RAJIV! WE FOUND COOPER!
WHERE?
HE'S FIGHTING WITH ANOTHER DRIVER IN THE PARKING LOT!
THIS IS REALLY BAD!

YOU'RE OUR BEST DRIVER, COOPER. BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU'RE MESSING UP.
I'M SORRY, LEN. IT'S 'CUZ OF KATRINA.
WE WERE GOIN' OUT FOR A WHILE, AND NOW IT'S HARD TO WORK TOGETHER.
SORRY. BUT THIS IS A BUSINESS. NEXT TIME, YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME, LEN.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
...'CUZ I'M GOING TO QUIT.
T&PLABAN 4/4


A COUPLE OF MY DRIVERS WERE DATING, AND NOW THEY CAN'T STAND EACH OTHER. YOU'RE A THERAPIST-- WHAT SHOULD I DO?
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY
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IT DEPENDS. DO YOU WANT TO HELP SAVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP, OR MOVE THEM TOWARDS SOME KIND OF CLOSURE?
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY
4/6
I WANT THEM TO KEEP WORKING FOR ME.
TRY A RAISE.
TERRY LABAN
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

I JUST TALKED TO COOPER ABOUT WHAT HE'D WANT TO KEEP WORKING FOR US.
HE SAID GIVEN THE EMOTIONAL ANGUISH HE'D SUFFER RUNNING INTO KATRINA EVERY DAY, HE COULDN'T DO IT FOR LESS THAN $20.00 MORE AN HOUR.
WELL-- COOPER IS A GOOD DRIVER, LEN.
BUT FOR THAT WE COULD HIRE THE LAST GUY WHO WON THE INDY 500.
I'LL OFFER HIM $5.00 MORE AN HOUR AND A NEW SHIFT.
TEPHABAN
4/6

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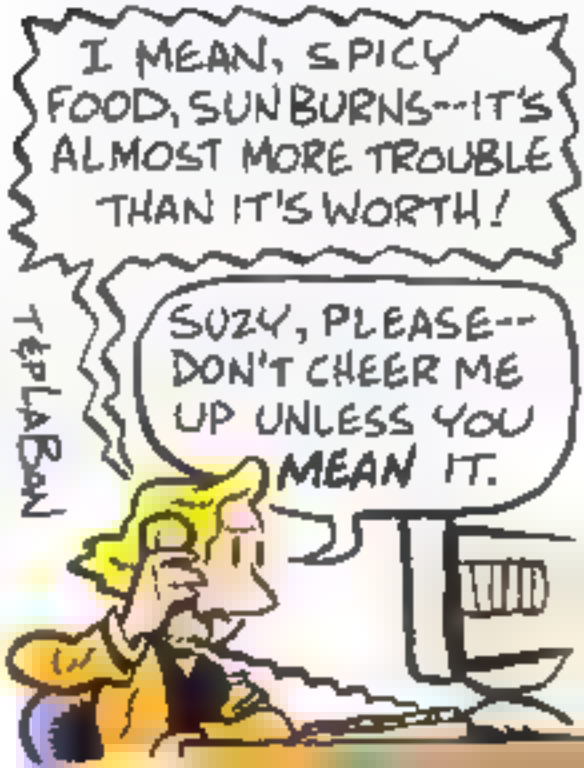
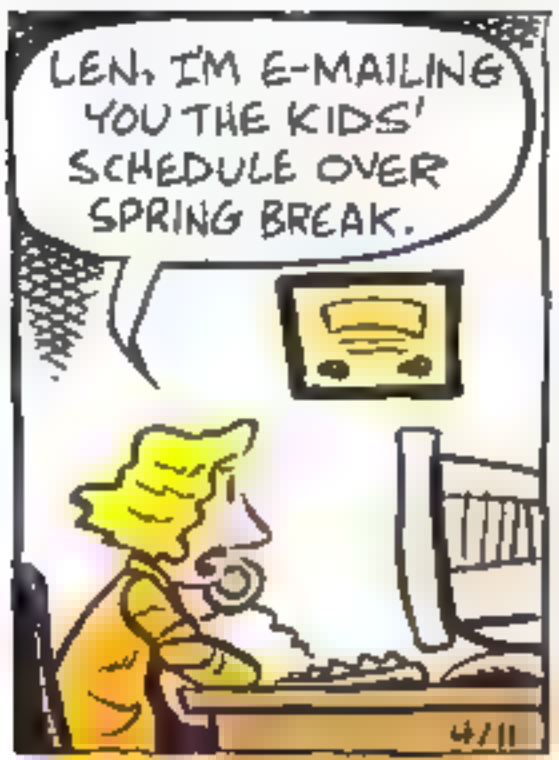


IT'S SPRING BREAK AND ALMOST EVERYONE WE KNOW IS ON VACATION.
I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE MY BUSINESS THIS YEAR.
4/10
I KNOW. BUT IT KILLS ME TO BE STUCK HERE WHILE OTHER PEOPLE ARE BASKING IN THE SUN.
HERE-- THESE MIGHT HELP A LITTLE.
A GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL TANNING SALON AND A CD CALLED "SOUNDS OF THE SURF"?
CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND CANCUN'S JUST THE NEXT STRIP MALL OVER!
TOP LABAN



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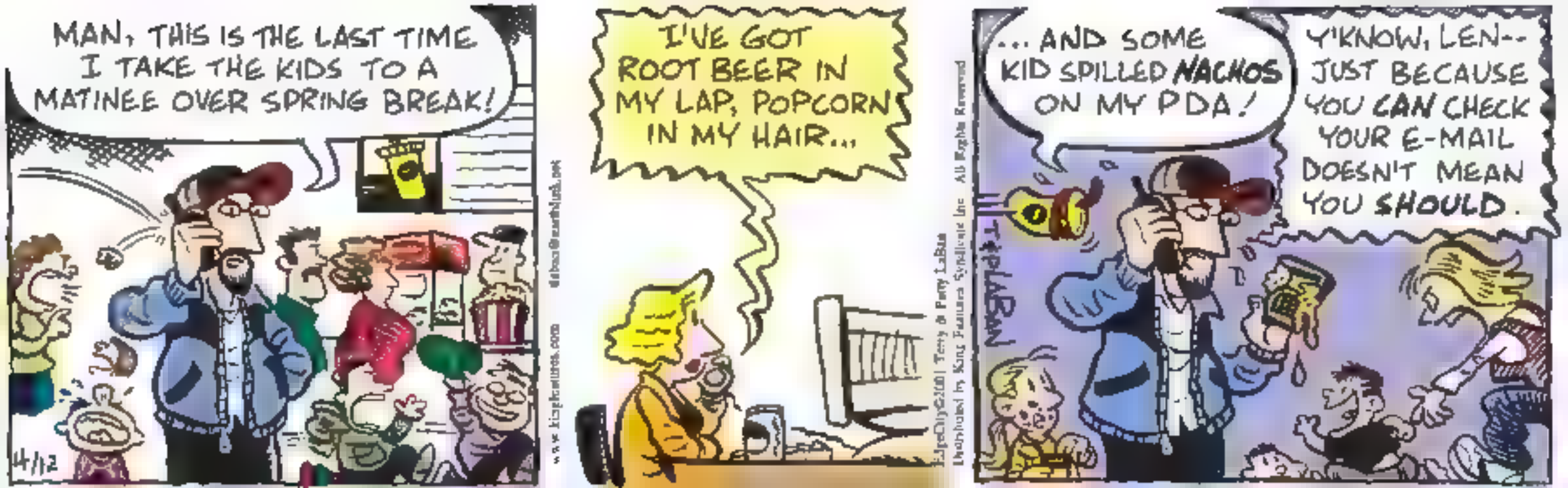
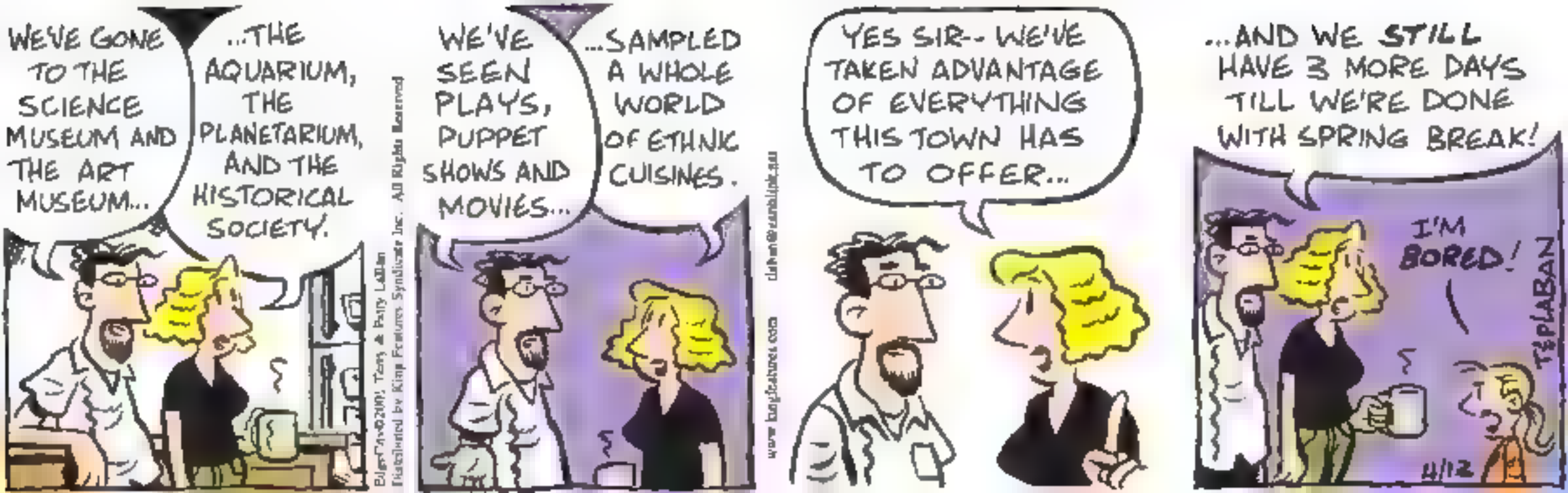

MAN, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I TAKE THE KIDS TO A MATINEE OVER SPRING BREAK!
4/12
I'VE GOT ROOT BEER IN MY LAP, POPCORN IN MY HAIR...
... AND SOME KID SPILLED NACHOS ON MY PDA!
Y'KNOW, LEN-- JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN CHECK YOUR E-MAIL DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD.
TRIPLAIRAN



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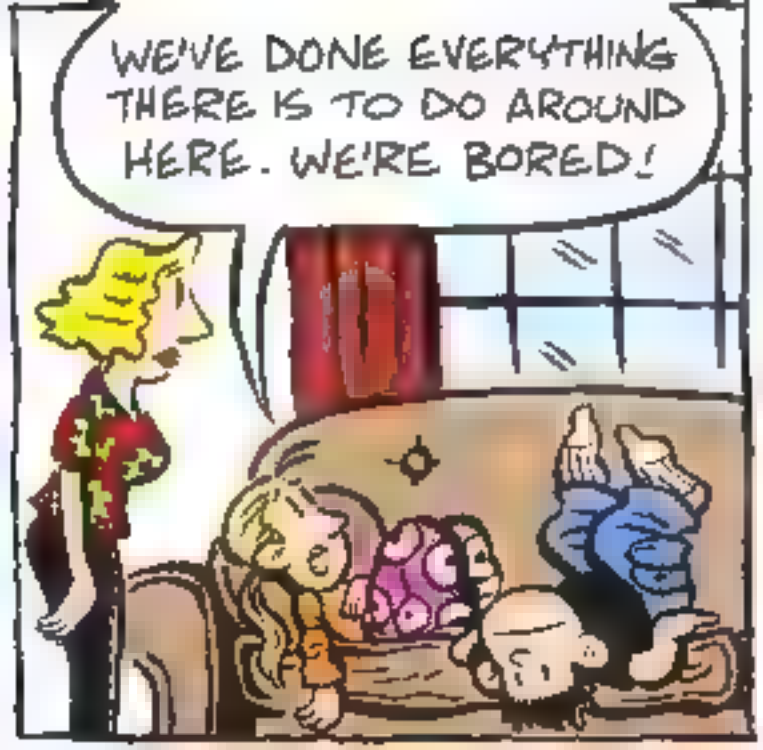

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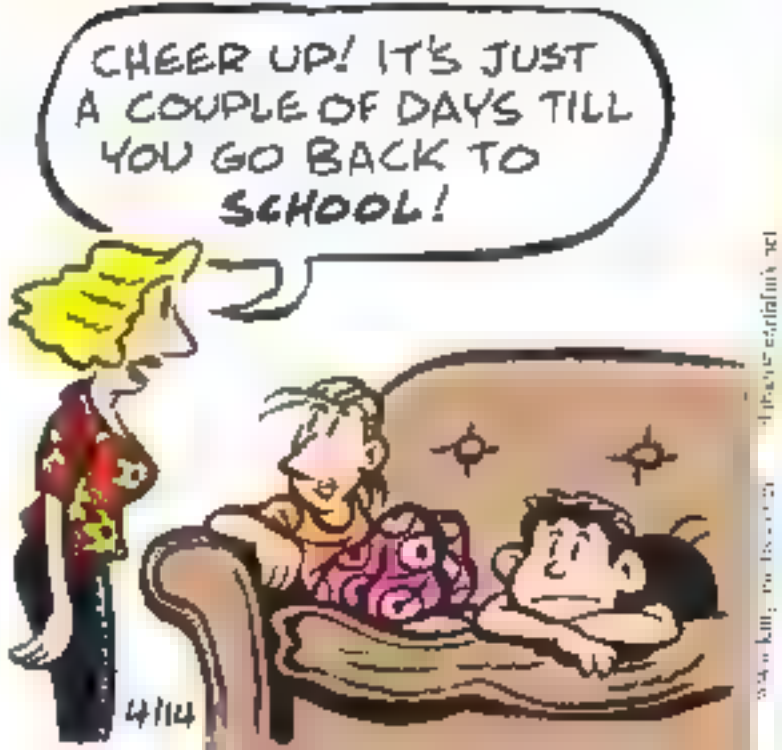
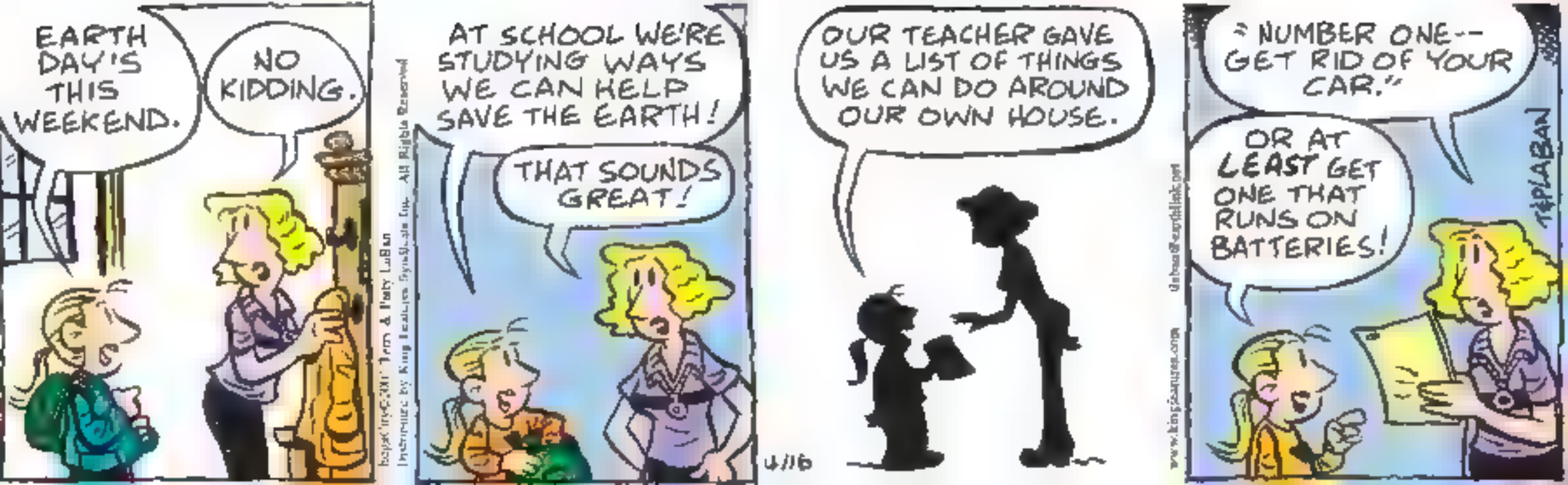
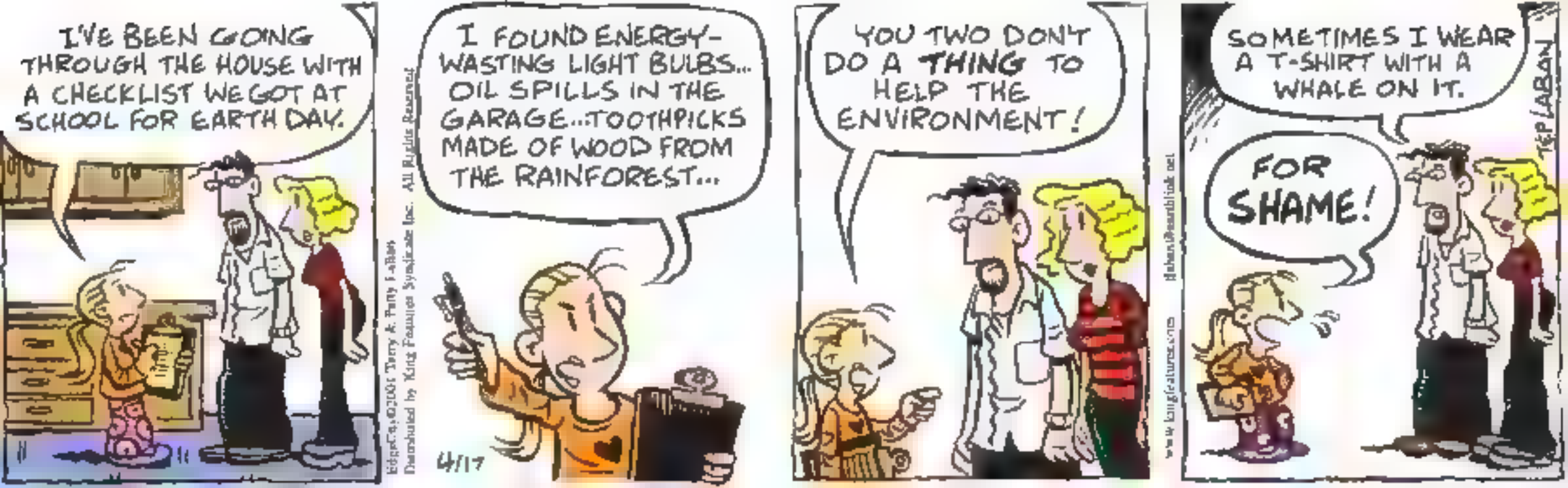
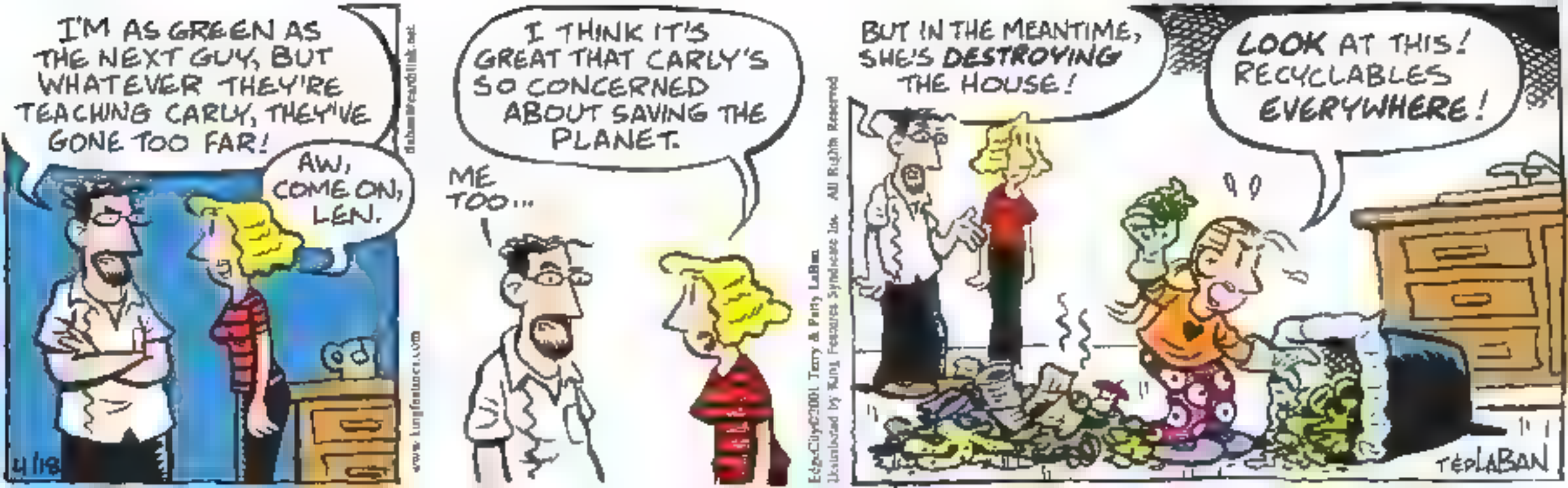



EARTH DAY'S THIS WEEKEND.
NO KIDDING.
AT SCHOOL WE'RE STUDYING WAYS WE CAN HELP SAVE THE EARTH!
THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
OUR TEACHER GAVE US A LIST OF THINGS WE CAN DO AROUND OUR OWN HOUSE.
"NUMBER ONE-- GET RID OF YOUR CAR."
OR AT LEAST GET ONE THAT RUNS ON BATTERIES!
TRIPLABAN


I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH THE HOUSE WITH A CHECKLIST WE GOT AT SCHOOL FOR EARTH DAY.
I FOUND ENERGY-WASTING LIGHT BULBS... OIL SPILLS IN THE GARAGE...TOOTHPICKS MADE OF WOOD FROM THE RAINFOREST...
4/17
YOU TWO DON'T DO A THING TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT!
SOMETIMES I WEAR A T-SHIRT WITH A WHALE ON IT.
FOR SHAME!
TEP/LABAN



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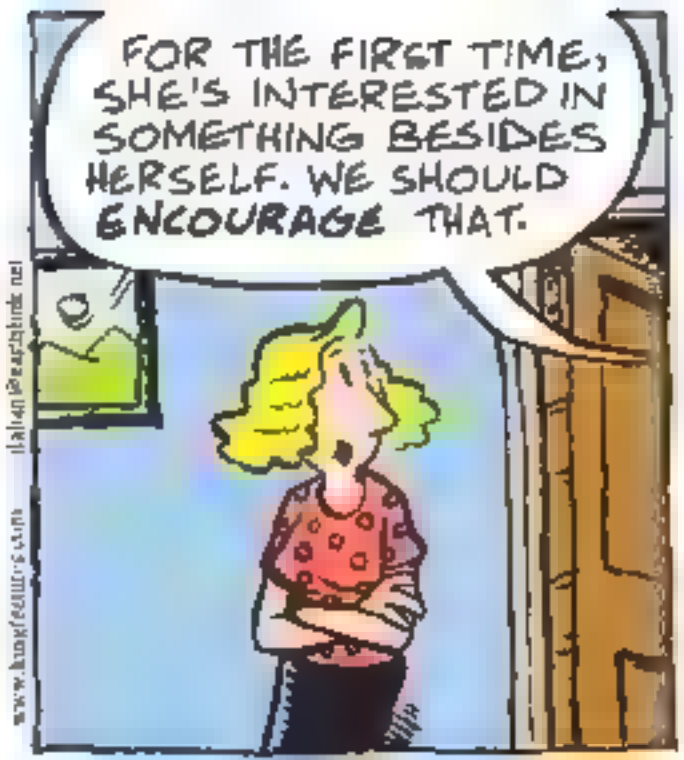

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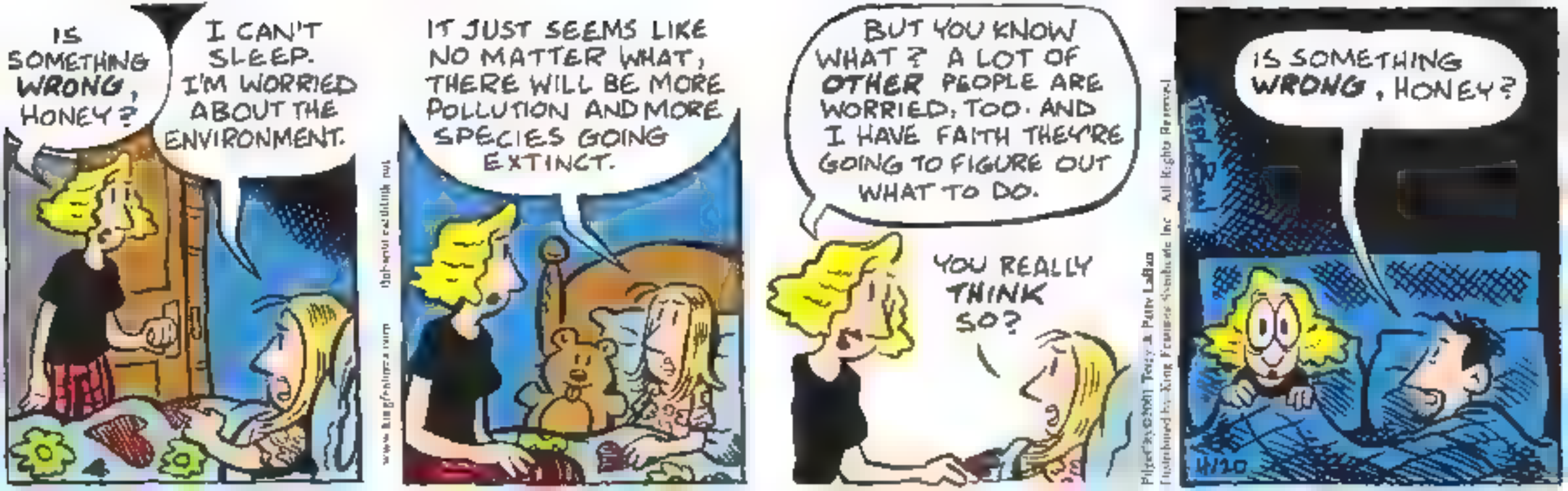
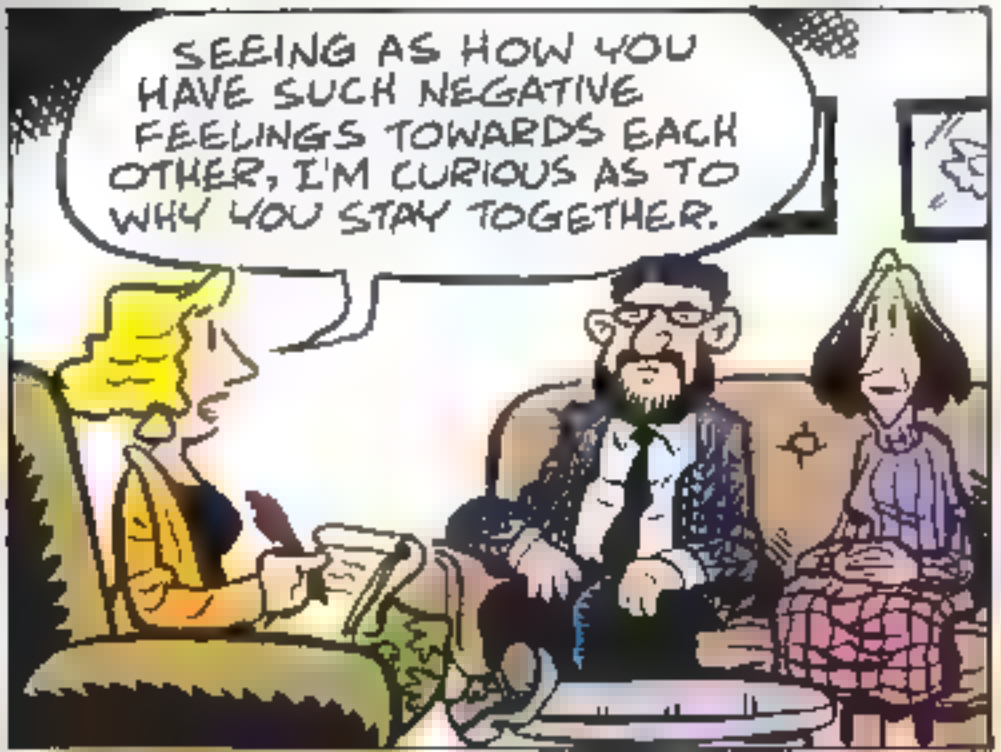

IS SOMETHING WRONG, HONEY?
I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.
IT JUST SEEMS LIKE NO MATTER WHAT, THERE WILL BE MORE POLLUTION AND MORE SPECIES GOING EXTINCT.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE ARE WORRIED, TOO. AND I HAVE FAITH THEY'RE GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, HONEY?
4/20

HEY, ABBY--I'M GETTING "HOUSE OF MIRTH" AND "THE PATRIOT."
NEW RELEA
RAMA
"THE PATRIOT" IS A WAR MOVIE. I DON'T WANT TO WATCH A WAR MOVIE.
SO--WE'LL START WITH "HOUSE OF MIRTH."
TERRY LABAN
SHE MUST'VE LIKED IT--IT TOOK HER ALMOST 20 MINUTES TO CONK OUT.
ZZZZZ

I USUALLY DON'T THINK ANY CASE IS HOPELESS. BUT THE COUPLE I'M COUNSELING TODAY MAY BE AN EXCEPTION.
I'VE TRIED ALL SORTS OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP, BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS, THEY JUST DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER.
SO, WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CONTINUE WITH THERAPY?
THEY LIKE ME.
4/23

SO--DID YOU TWO TRY THE COMMUNICATION EXERCISE I ASKED YOU TO DO LAST WEEK?
UH HUH.
THE VERY NEXT NIGHT, WHEN CAL GOT HOME, WE TOOK TURNS LISTENING TO EACH OTHER FOR 10 MINUTES EACH WITHOUT INTERRUPTING.
GREAT! AND HOW DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
HORRIBLE. HE WENT TO SLEEP!
HEY, SHE WAS BORING.
T&P LABAN
4/24

CAL FEELS THAT BECAUSE HE'S DONE WELL IN BUSINESS, HE'S SOME KIND OF SUPERIOR BEING.
HE THINKS THAT IF ANYONE CRITICIZES HIM, IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE THREATENED BY HIS SUCCESS.
CAL, I'M SURE WE CAN AGREE THAT PERFORMING WELL IN ONE AREA OF LIFE DOESN'T MEAN PERFORMING WELL IN ALL OF THEM.
WOW. YOU FIND ME THREATENING, TOO.
SEE? DOESN'T IT DRIVE YOU CRAZY?
4/25



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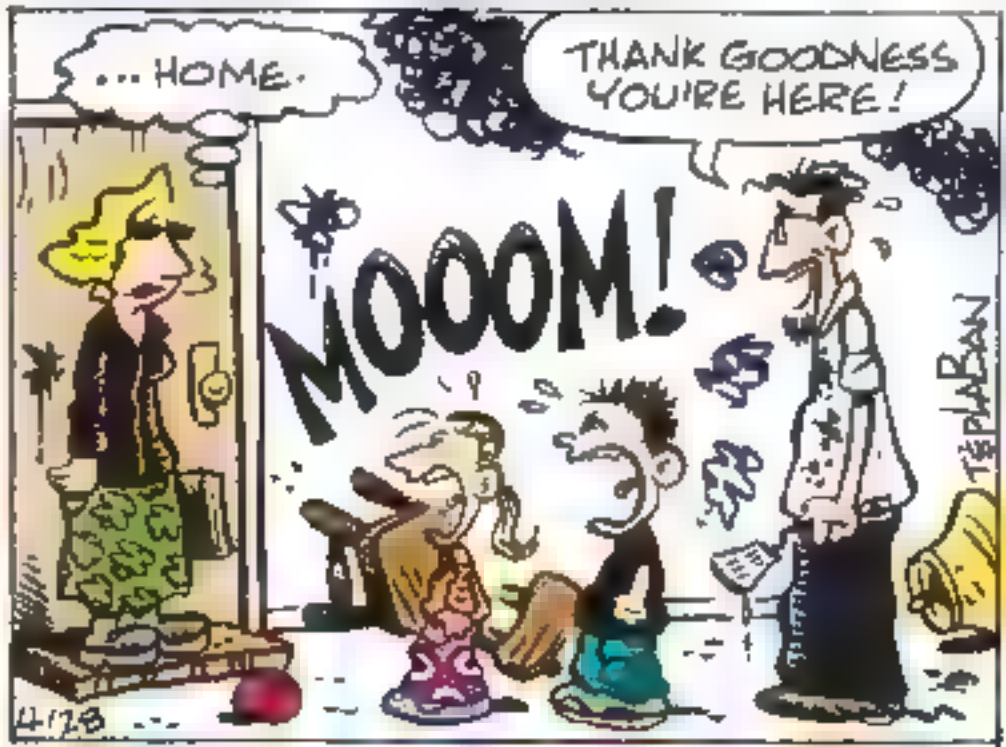
HOW'D YOUR SESSION GO WITH THAT DIFFICULT COUPLE?
NOT GREAT.
4/27
AFTER YEARS OF DOING THERAPY, I'M STILL SURPRISED BY HOW DYSFUNCTIONAL PEOPLE CAN BE. I WOULDN'T BE INVOLVED IN THAT RELATIONSHIP IF YOU PAID ME!
EXCEPT FOR AN HOUR ONCE A WEEK.
WELL, YEAH BUT THAT'S WHERE I DRAW THE LINE!
TEPLABAN



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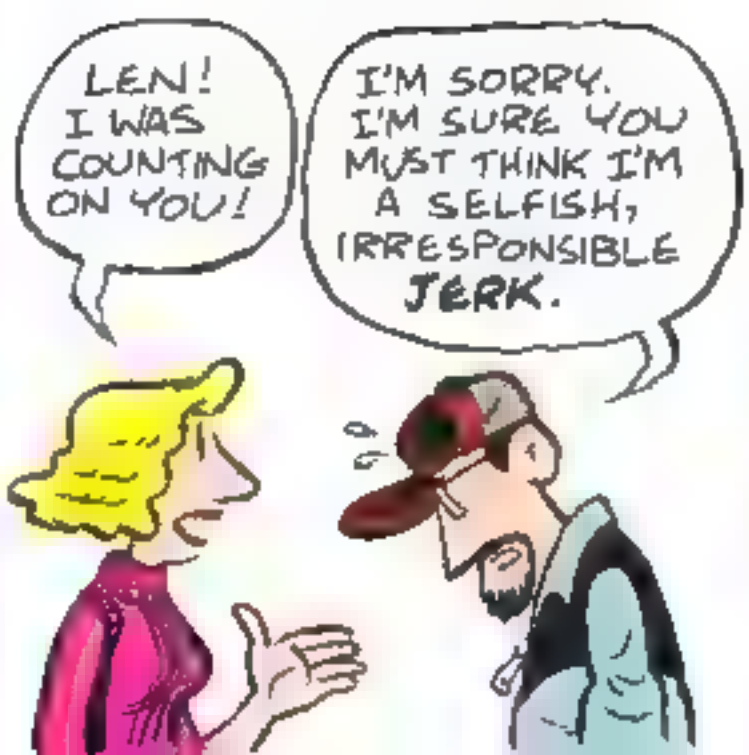

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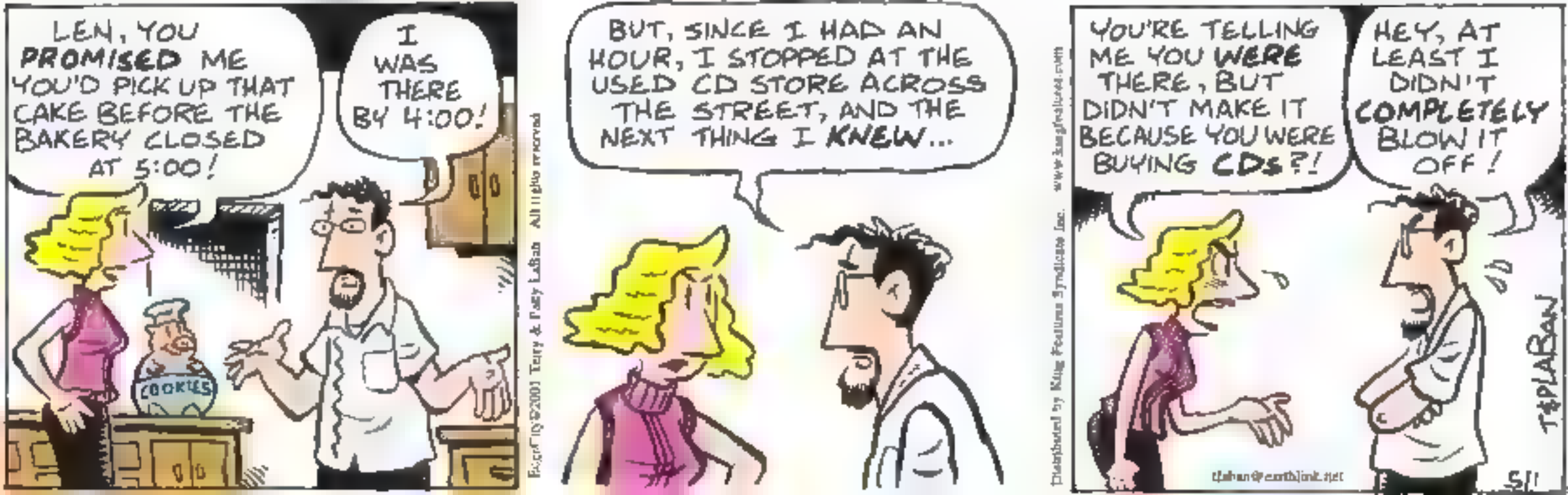
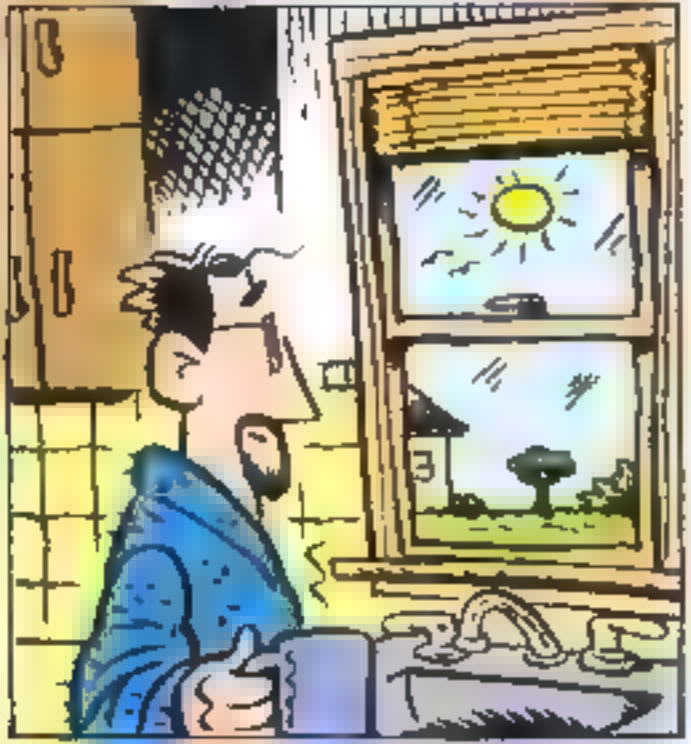

LEN, YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D PICK UP THAT CAKE BEFORE THE BAKERY CLOSED AT 5:00!
I WAS THERE BY 4:00!
COOKIES
BUT, SINCE I HAD AN HOUR, I STOPPED AT THE USED CD STORE ACROSS THE STREET, AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW...
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WERE THERE, BUT DIDN'T MAKE IT BECAUSE YOU WERE BUYING CDs?!
HEY, AT LEAST I DIDN'T COMPLETELY BLOW IT OFF!
T&PLaBan

OK! SO I DIDN'T PICK UP YOUR CAKE BECAUSE I WAS SHOPPING FOR CDs! SO WHAT? BIG DEAL!
HEAVEN FORBID I SHOULD STOP BREAKING MY NECK FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE AND ENJOY MYSELF FOR HALF AN HOUR!
WELL, I'M THROUGH BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED! YOU HEAR ME? THROUGH!
SLAM!
5/2
THE ONLY TIME LEN GETS REALLY MAD IS WHEN HE MESSES UP.
APOLOGIZE WHENEVER YOU WANT. I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.
PETLABAN

UH, ABBY? I'M SORRY I GOT MAD AT YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE-- IT WAS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE TO MISS PICKING UP YOUR CAKE BECAUSE I WAS SHOPPING FOR CDS. I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU ANY WAY I CAN.
5/8
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND GET ME ANOTHER CAKE?
AT THIS HOUR?
T&PLaBan

ABBY AND I HAD A FIGHT LAST NIGHT.
IT'S OVER. BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN.
5/4
IT'S OK. ALL COUPLES FIGHT ONCE IN A WHILE.
YEAH--BUT HOW COME I'M NEVER THE ONE WHO'S RIGHT?
TEPLABAN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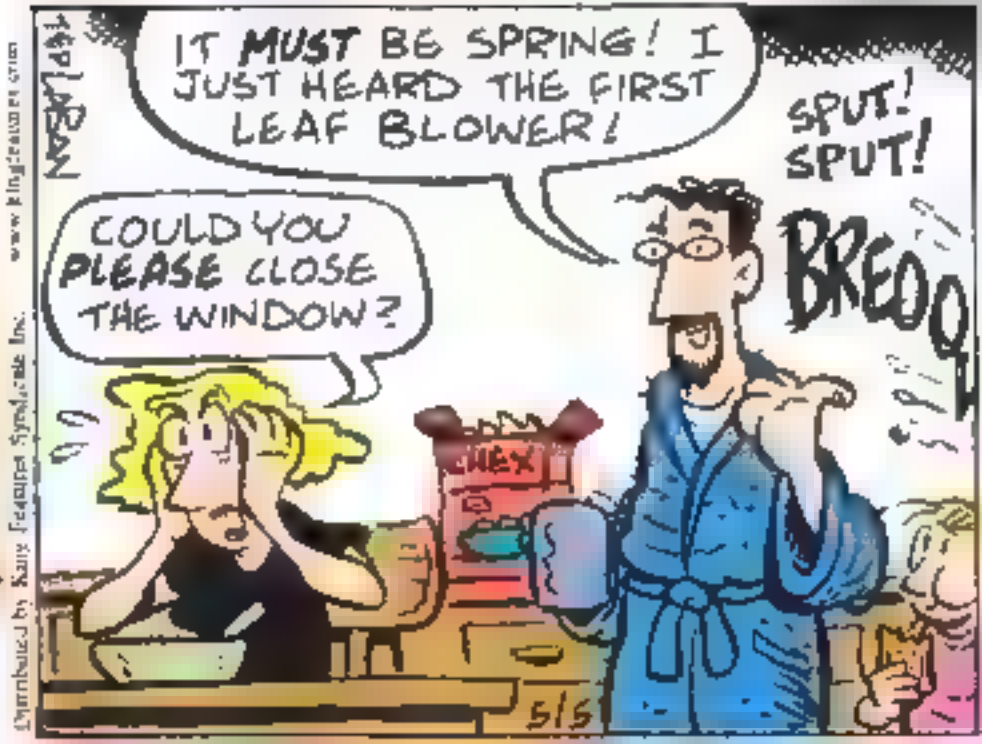
BREEOW!!!


IT MUST BE SPRING! I JUST HEARD THE FIRST LEAF BLOWER!
SPUT! SPUT!
BREOO
COULD YOU PLEASE CLOSE THE WINDOW?
CHEX
5/5
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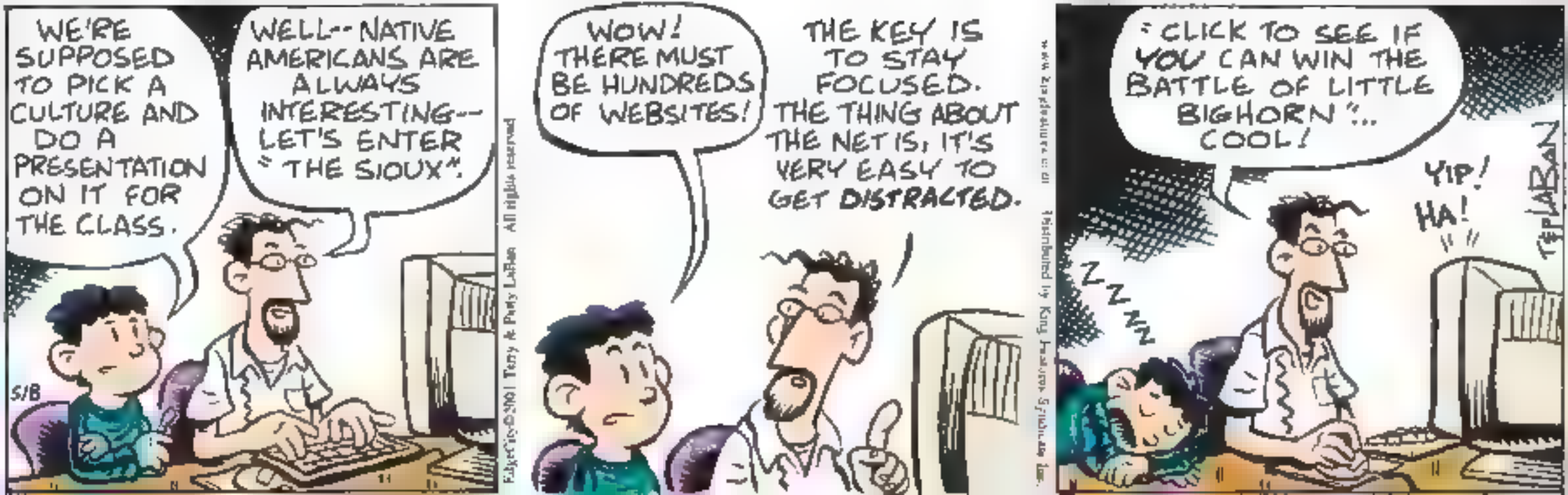
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PICK A CULTURE AND DO A PRESENTATION ON IT FOR THE CLASS.
WELL-- NATIVE AMERICANS ARE ALWAYS INTERESTING-- LET'S ENTER "THE SIOUX".
S/B
WOW! THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF WEBSITES!
THE KEY IS TO STAY FOCUSED. THE THING ABOUT THE NET IS, IT'S VERY EASY TO GET DISTRACTED.
"CLICK TO SEE IF YOU CAN WIN THE BATTLE OF LITTLE BIGHORN"... COOL!
ZZZZ
YIP! HA!
TERLABAN

THE RECEPTIONIST IS DOWNLOADING DATA FROM THE INTERNET...I'VE GOT A DRIVER PICKING UP MATERIAL FROM THE LIBRARY...MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO WORK ON THE REPORT!
THIS IS GONNA BE BIG, RAJIV! REALLY BIG!
Y'KNOW, LEN--IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU SO ENERGIZED.
BUT I'M NOT SURE WE SHOULD BE DEVOTING OUR BUSINESS RESOURCES TO DOING YOUR SON'S HOMEWORK.
CAN WE WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER? WE'RE LOOKING AT AN "A" HERE!
TERRY LABAN
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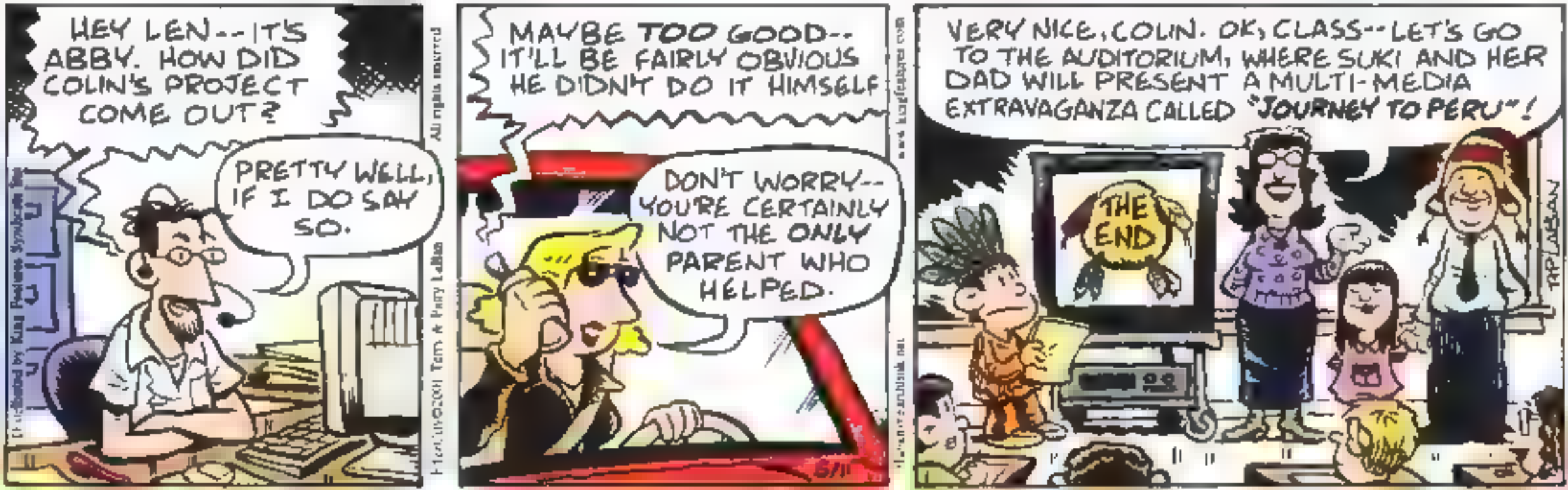
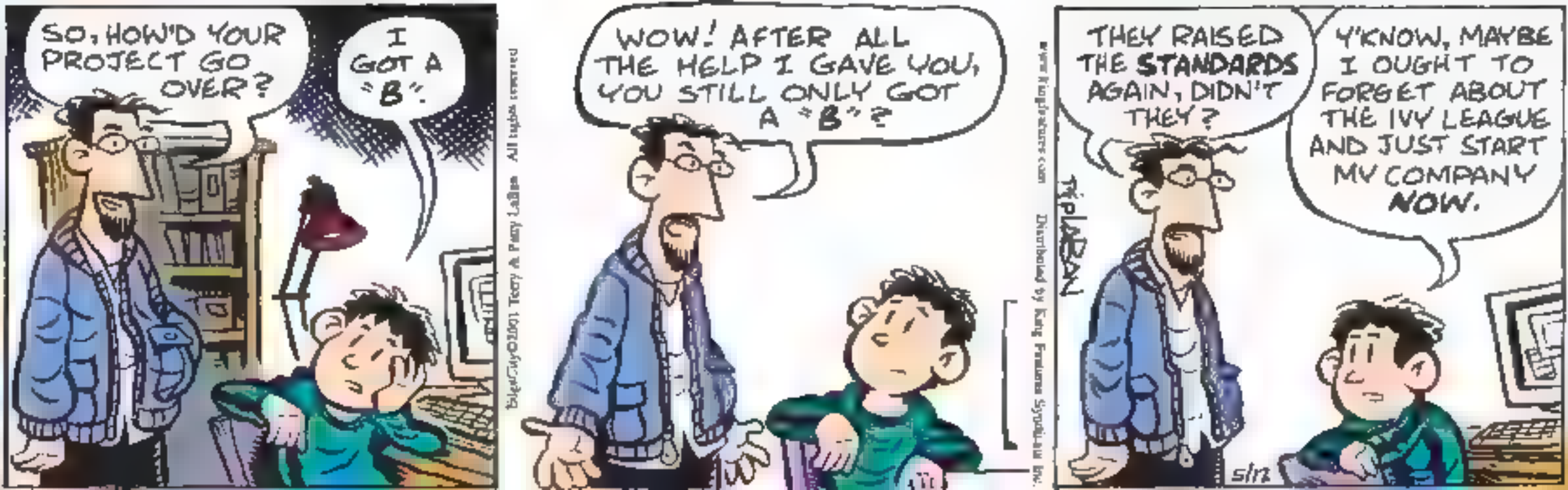
COLIN, WHY ARE YOU WATCHING TV WHILE YOUR DAD'S WORKING ON YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECT?
HE WANTS TO DO IT ALL HIMSELF.
I'LL BET. IF I KNOW HIM, HE GOT SO INVOLVED HE DIDN'T NOTICE YOU SLIPPED AWAY. GO BACK AND HELP!
COLIN, FOR THE LAST TIME-- I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW!
CAN WE TURN IT BACK TO CHANNEL 4?
TEP LABAN 5/10


HEY LEN--IT'S ABBY. HOW DID COLIN'S PROJECT COME OUT?
PRETTY WELL, IF I DO SAY SO.
MAYBE TOO GOOD-- IT'LL BE FAIRLY OBVIOUS HE DIDN'T DO IT HIMSELF
DON'T WORRY-- YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT THE ONLY PARENT WHO HELPED.
VERY NICE, COLIN. OK, CLASS--LET'S GO TO THE AUDITORIUM, WHERE SUKI AND HER DAD WILL PRESENT A MULTI-MEDIA EXTRAVAGANZA CALLED "JOURNEY TO PERU"!
THE END



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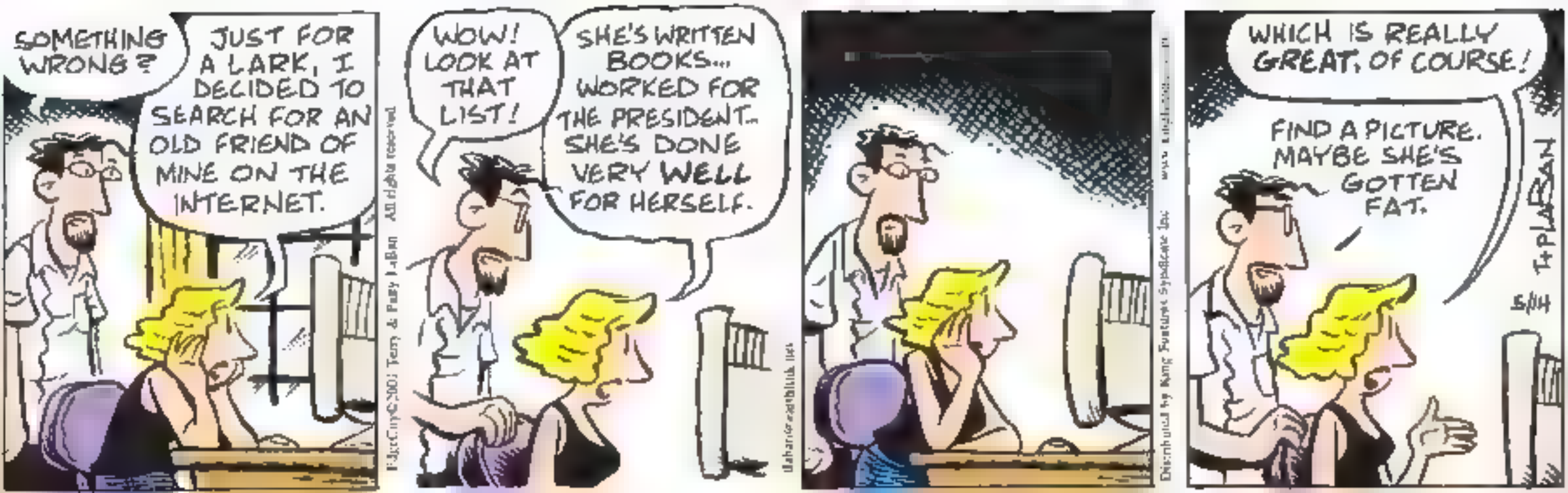
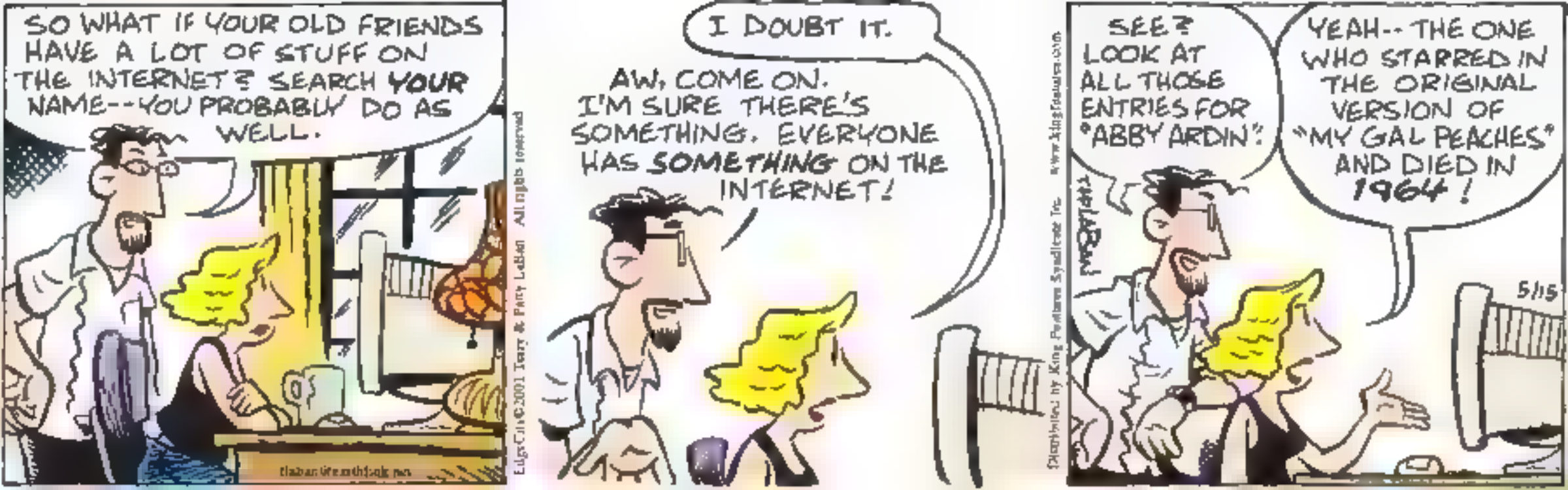

SOMETHING WRONG?
JUST FOR A LARK, I DECIDED TO SEARCH FOR AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE ON THE INTERNET.
WOW! LOOK AT THAT LIST!
SHE'S WRITTEN BOOKS... WORKED FOR THE PRESIDENT... SHE'S DONE VERY WELL FOR HERSELF.
WHICH IS REALLY GREAT, OF COURSE!
FIND A PICTURE. MAYBE SHE'S GOTTEN FAT.
5/14
TPLABAN


SO WHAT IF YOUR OLD FRIENDS HAVE A LOT OF STUFF ON THE INTERNET? SEARCH YOUR NAME--YOU PROBABLY DO AS WELL.
I DOUBT IT.
AW, COME ON. I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING. EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING ON THE INTERNET!
SEE? LOOK AT ALL THOSE ENTRIES FOR "ABBY ARDIN".
YEAH--THE ONE WHO STARRED IN THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF "MY GAL PEACHES" AND DIED IN 1964!
5/15

LOOK, IT'S SILLY TO GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE ABOUT NOT FINDING YOURSELF ON THE INTERNET. YOU WON'T FIND ME THERE, EITHER.
WANNA BET?
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THERE YOU ARE-- IT'S THE WEBSITE FOR YOUR COMPANY.
OH, RIGHT. I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
Uahan@earthlink.net
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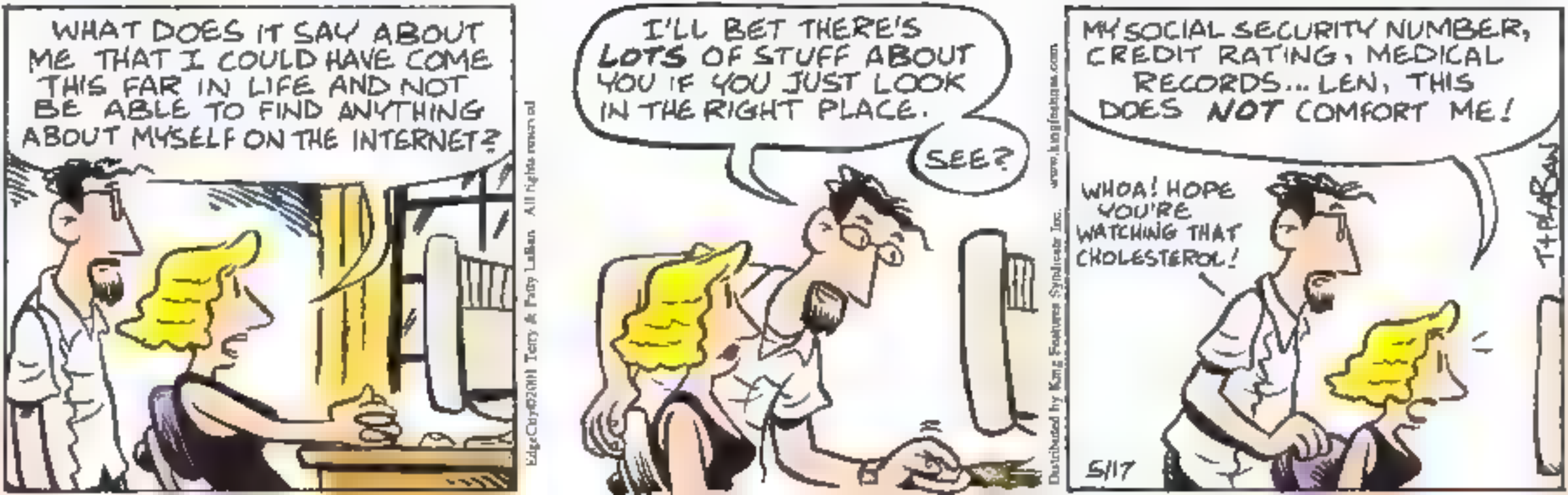
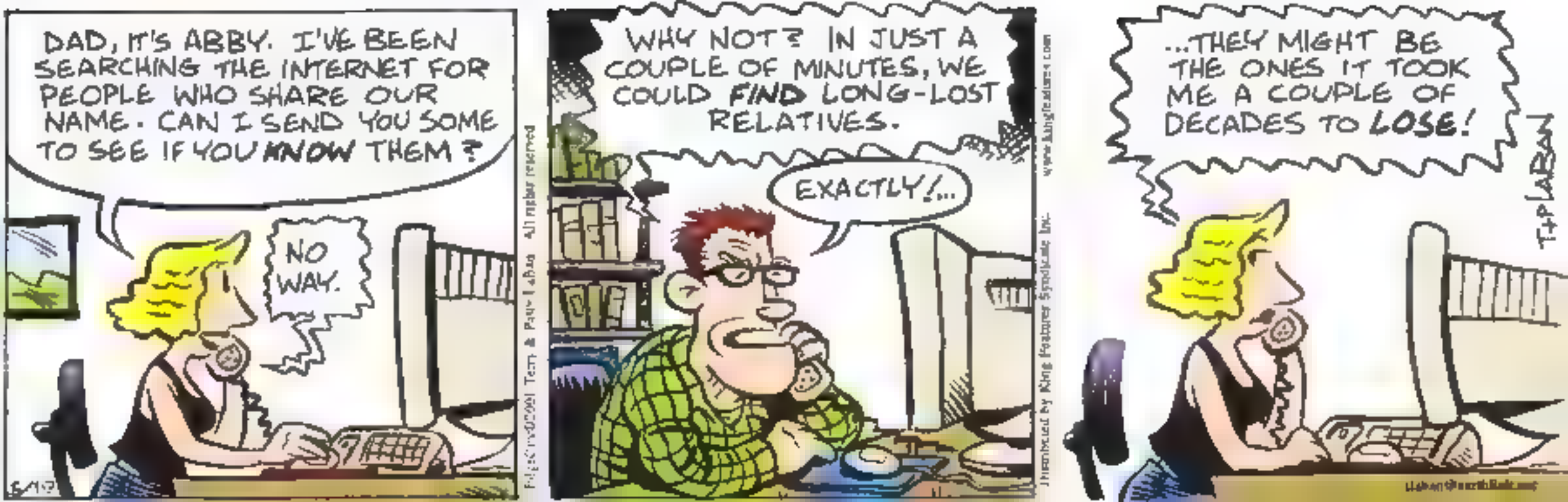
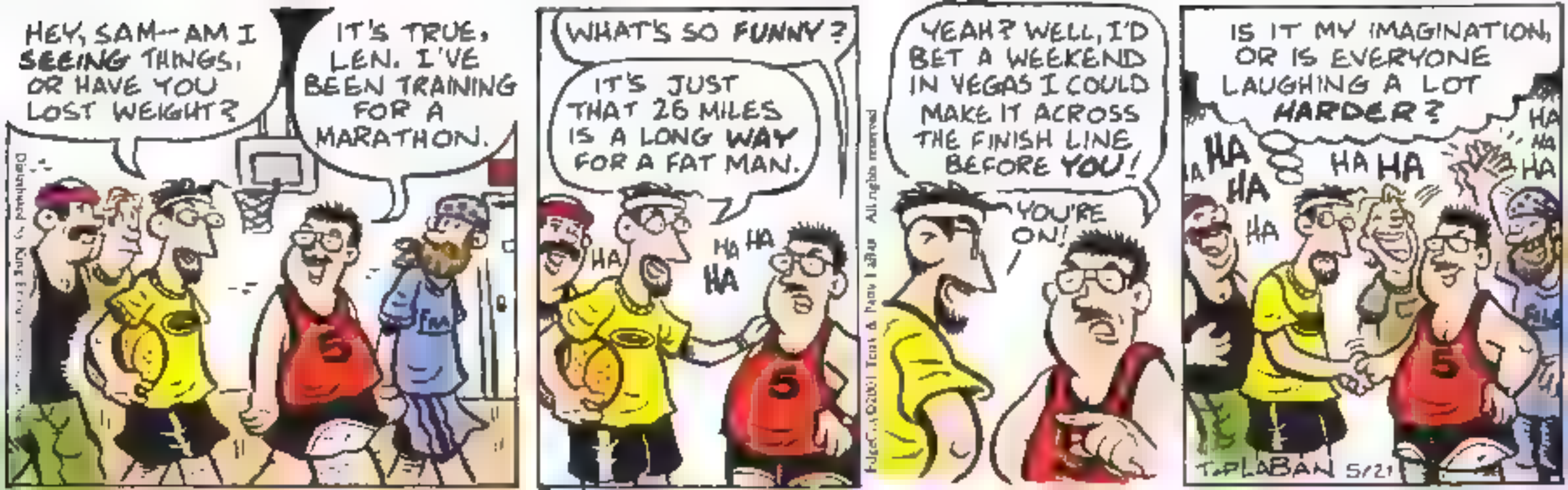
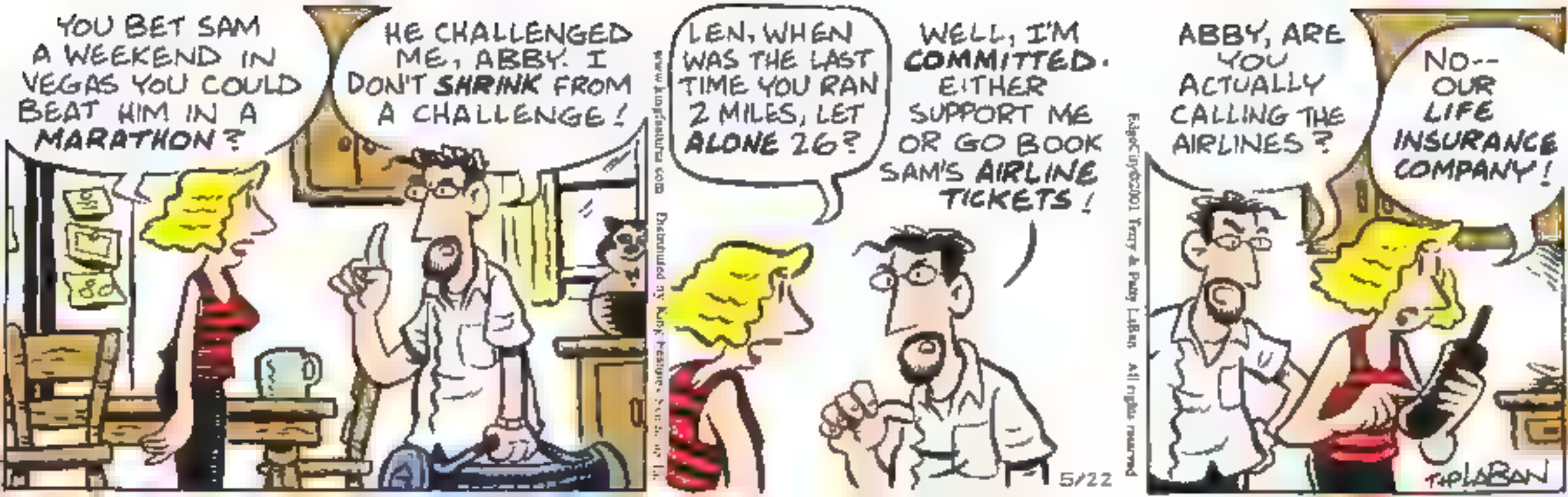
♪ LEADFOOT COURIERS, WE MAKE HASTE, 'CUZ YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE!... ♫
WOW--THE ANIMATION OF RAJIV AND ME LINE DANCING IS PRETTY NEAT!
I'M GOING TO LIE DOWN.
5/16
T+P LABAN

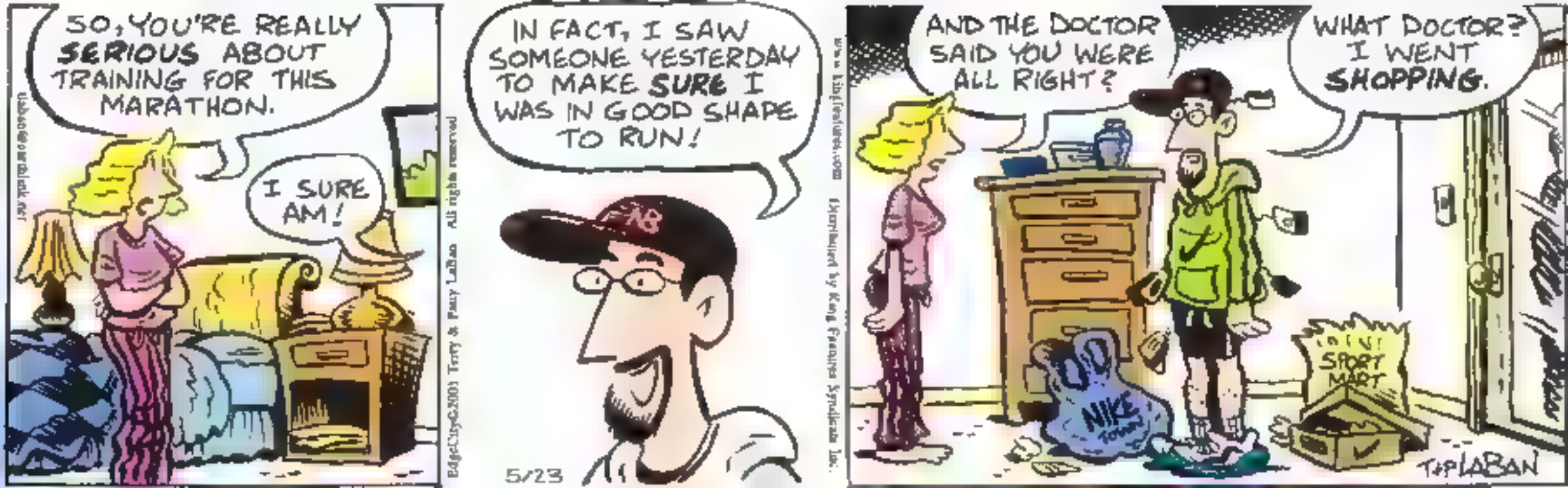

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT ME THAT I COULD HAVE COME THIS FAR IN LIFE AND NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING ABOUT MYSELF ON THE INTERNET?
I'LL BET THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF ABOUT YOU IF YOU JUST LOOK IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
SEE?
MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, CREDIT RATING, MEDICAL RECORDS... LEN, THIS DOES NOT COMFORT ME!
WHOA! HOPE YOU'RE WATCHING THAT CHOLESTEROL!
5/17
TH PHARAN

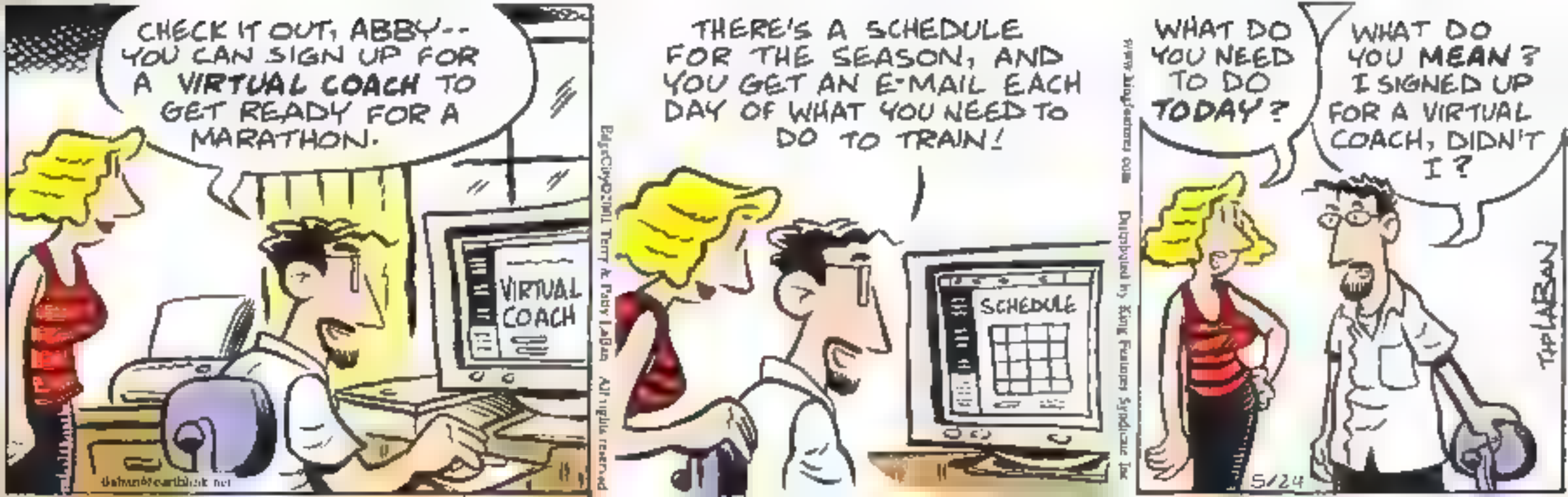
INSTEAD OF GETTING DEPRESSED ABOUT NOT HAVING ANY PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET, I'VE DECIDED TO LET IT MOTIVATE ME.
I'M GOING TO START WORKING ON AN ARTICLE TO SUBMIT TO A PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATION!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
TAPLABAN
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE CALLED?
"NOT FINDING YOURSELF ON THE INTERNET AS A FACTOR IN MIDLIFE CRISIS"...
5/18


DAD, IT'S ABBY. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE INTERNET FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE OUR NAME. CAN I SEND YOU SOME TO SEE IF YOU KNOW THEM?
NO WAY.
WHY NOT? IN JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES, WE COULD FIND LONG-LOST RELATIVES.
EXACTLY!...
...THEY MIGHT BE THE ONES IT TOOK ME A COUPLE OF DECADES TO LOSE!
T+P LABAN


HEY, SAM—AM I SEEING THINGS, OR HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?
IT'S TRUE, LEN. I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR A MARATHON.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
IT'S JUST THAT 26 MILES IS A LONG WAY FOR A FAT MAN.
HA
HA HA HA
YEAH? WELL, I'D BET A WEEKEND IN VEGAS I COULD MAKE IT ACROSS THE FINISH LINE BEFORE YOU!
YOU'RE ON!
IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR IS EVERYONE LAUGHING A LOT HARDER?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
T.PLABAN 5/21


YOU BET SAM A WEEKEND IN VEGAS YOU COULD BEAT HIM IN A MARATHON?
HE CHALLENGED ME, ABBY. I DON'T SHRINK FROM A CHALLENGE!
LEN, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU RAN 2 MILES, LET ALONE 26?
WELL, I'M COMMITTED. EITHER SUPPORT ME OR GO BOOK SAM'S AIRLINE TICKETS!
5/22
ABBY, ARE YOU ACTUALLY CALLING THE AIRLINES?
NO-- OUR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY!
THPLABAN


SO, YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT TRAINING FOR THIS MARATHON.
I SURE AM!
IN FACT, I SAW SOMEONE YESTERDAY TO MAKE SURE I WAS IN GOOD SHAPE TO RUN!
5/23
AND THE DOCTOR SAID YOU WERE ALL RIGHT?
WHAT DOCTOR? I WENT SHOPPING.
NIKE
SPORT MART
TOP LABAN



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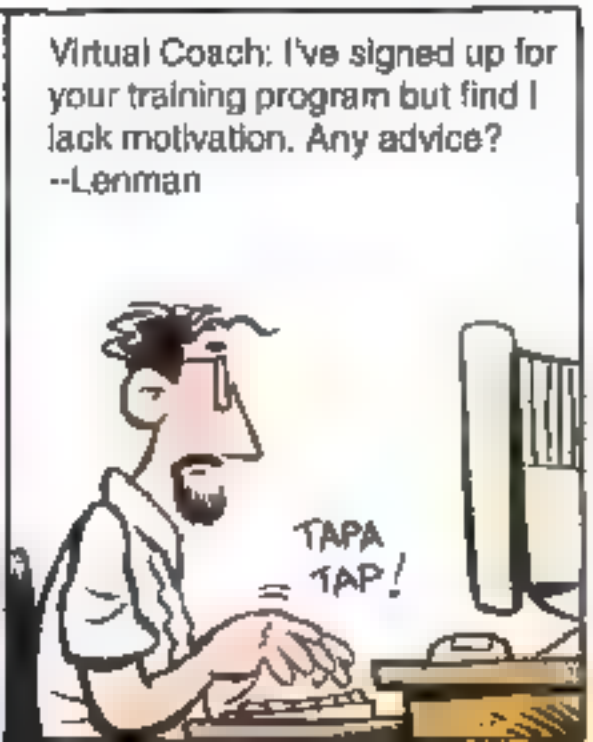

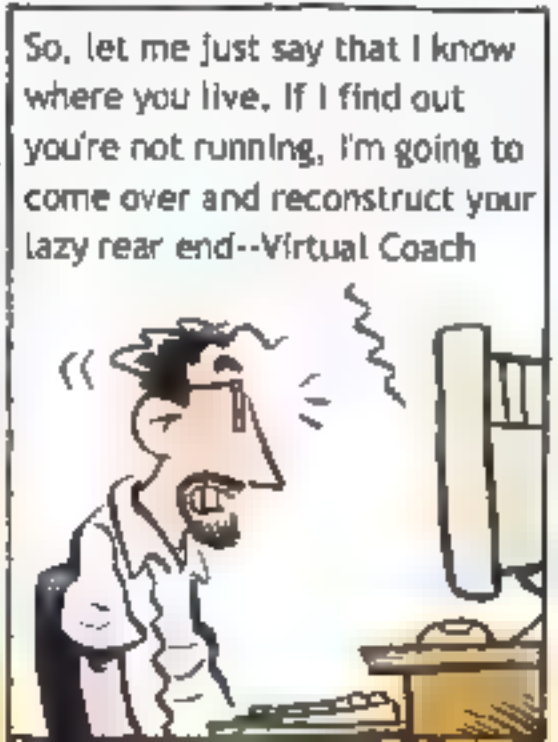

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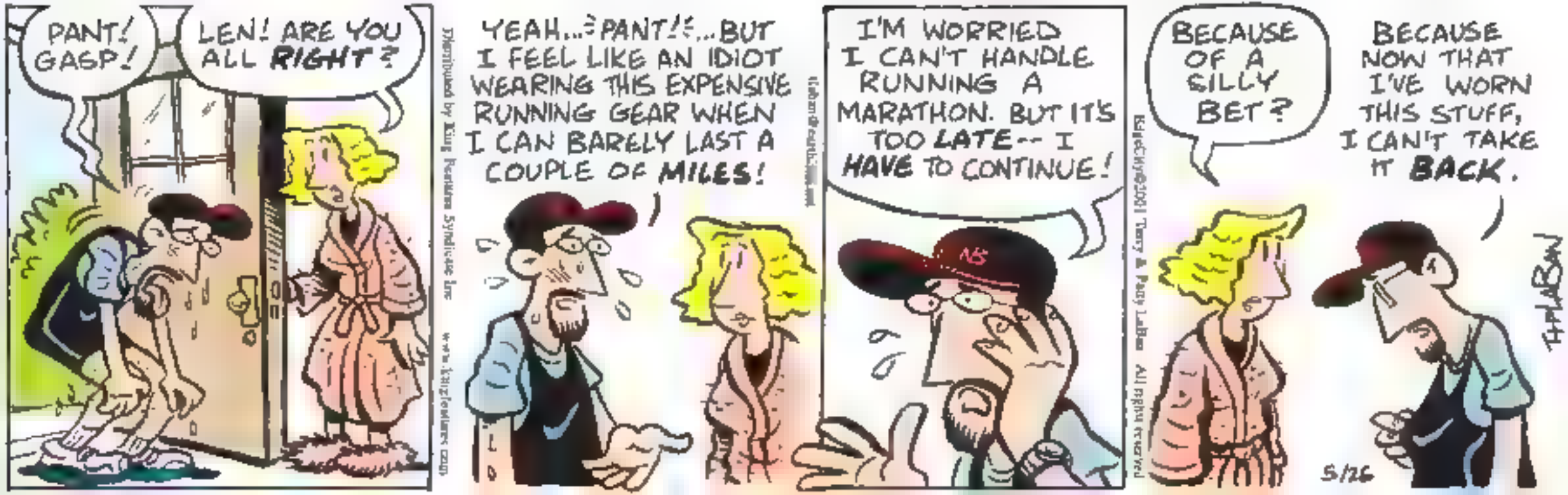
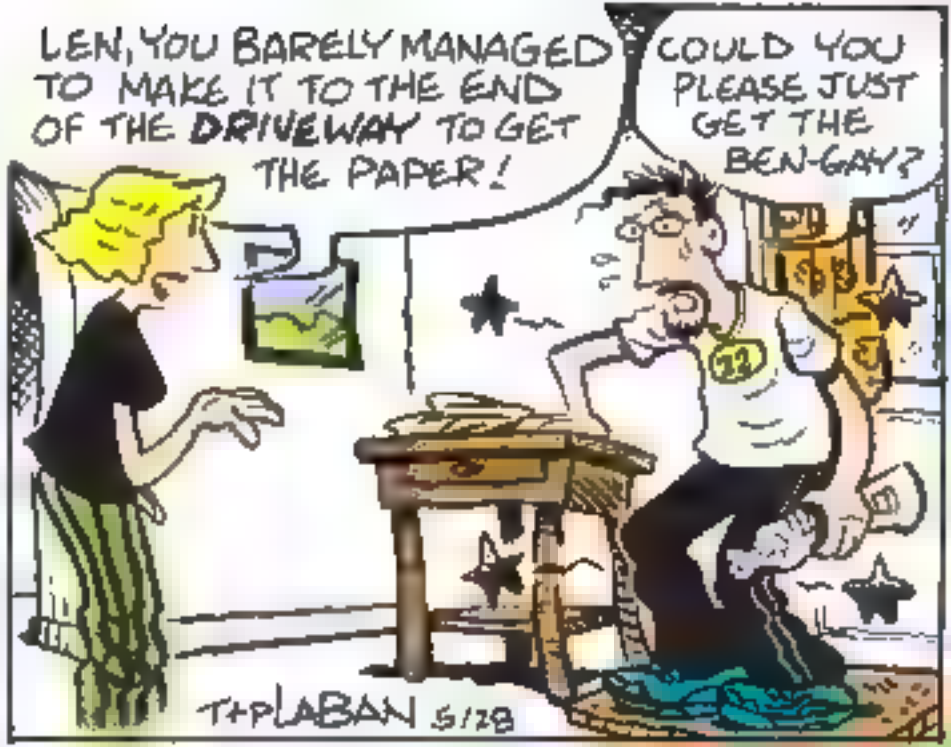
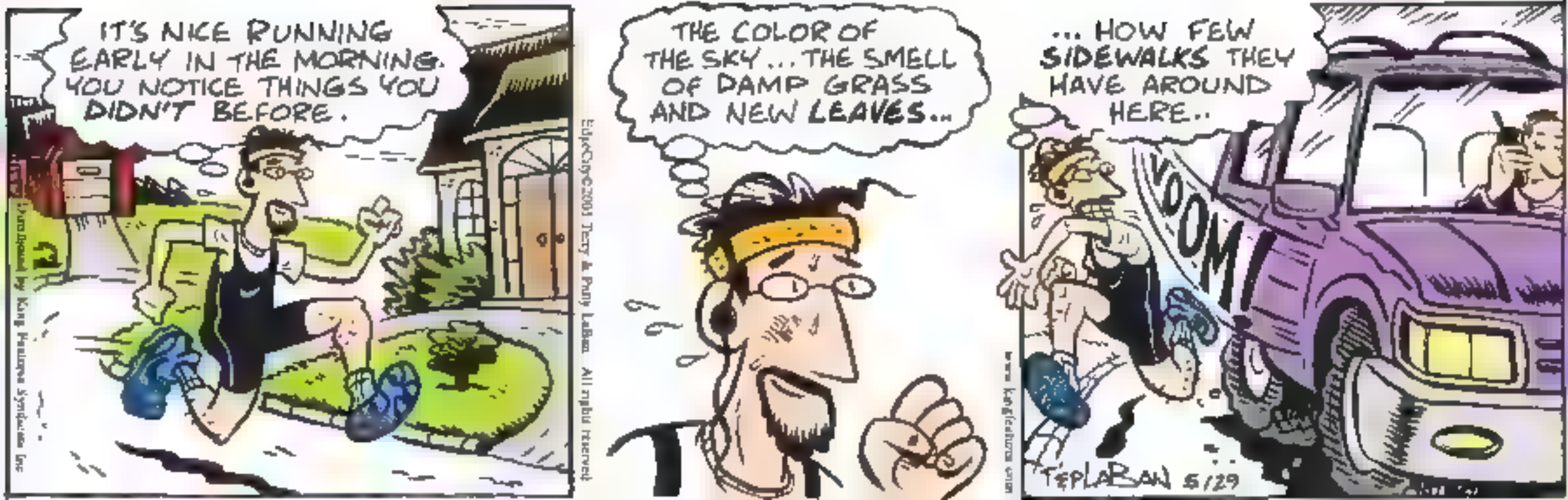

PANT! GASP!
LEN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH...PANT!...BUT I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT WEARING THIS EXPENSIVE RUNNING GEAR WHEN I CAN BARELY LAST A COUPLE OF MILES!
I'M WORRIED I CAN'T HANDLE RUNNING A MARATHON. BUT IT'S TOO LATE-- I HAVE TO CONTINUE!
BECAUSE OF A SILLY BET?
BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE WORN THIS STUFF, I CAN'T TAKE IT BACK.
5/26

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD.
DON'T WORRY, ABBY.-
22

I'M ALWAYS A LITTLE STIFF AT THE BEGINNING, BUT ONCE I WARM UP, I HAVE NO PROBLEM RUNNING A COUPLE OF MILES.
A COUPLE OF MILES?


LEN, YOU BARELY MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE END OF THE DRIVEWAY TO GET THE PAPER!
COULD YOU PLEASE JUST GET THE BEN-GAY?
22
T+P LABAN 5/28


IT'S NICE RUNNING EARLY IN THE MORNING. YOU NOTICE THINGS YOU DIDN'T BEFORE.
THE COLOR OF THE SKY... THE SMELL OF DAMP GRASS AND NEW LEAVES...
... HOW FEW SIDEWALKS THEY HAVE AROUND HERE..
VOOM
TEPLABAN 5/29
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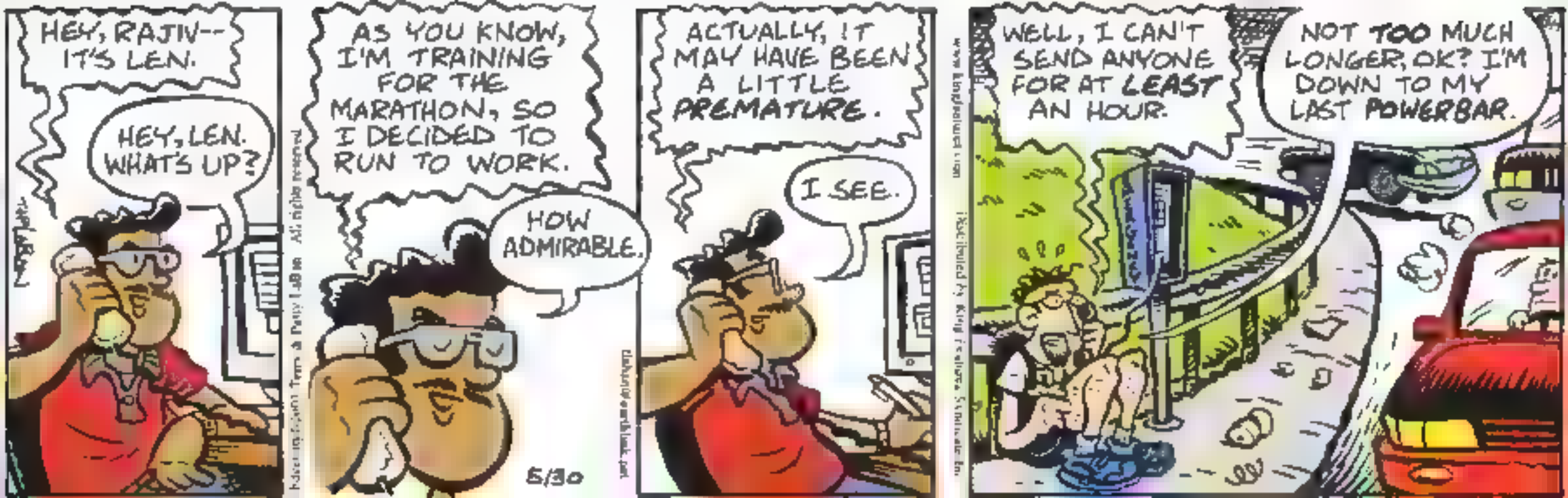
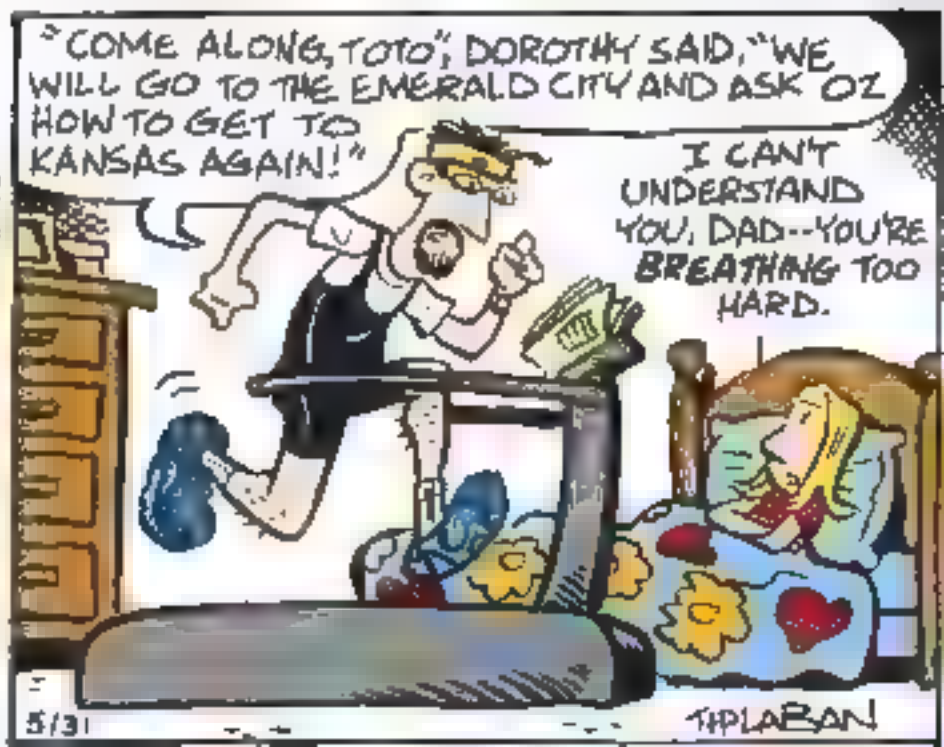
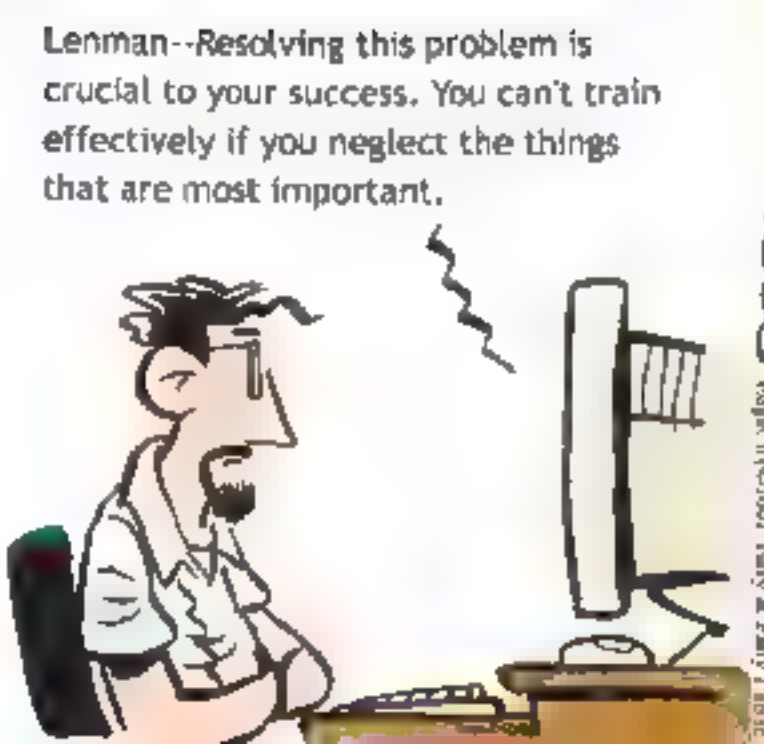
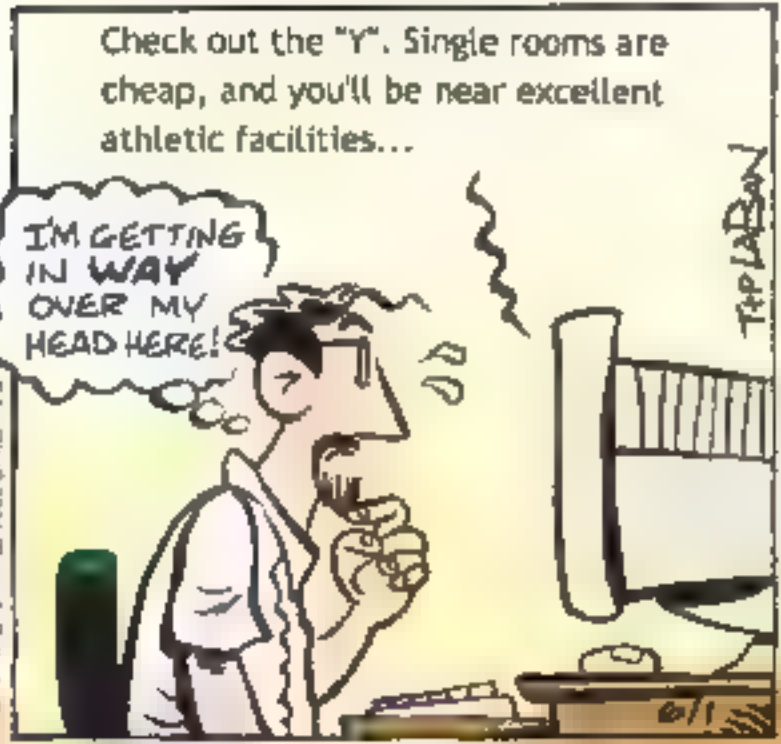

HEY, RAJIV-- IT'S LEN.
HEY, LEN. WHAT'S UP?
AS YOU KNOW, I'M TRAINING FOR THE MARATHON, SO I DECIDED TO RUN TO WORK.
HOW ADMIRABLE.
5/30
ACTUALLY, IT MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE PREMATURE.
I SEE.
WELL, I CAN'T SEND ANYONE FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR.
NOT TOO MUCH LONGER, OK? I'M DOWN TO MY LAST POWERBAR.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO READ CARLY A STORY?
I WOULD, BUT I NEED TO RUN. I HAVEN'T MET MY DAILY GOALS YET.

Y'KNOW, LEN, TRAINING FOR A MARATHON IS FINE, BUT YOU NEED TO FIND A WAY TO DO IT THAT WON'T KEEP YOU FROM HELPING OUT AROUND THE HOUSE!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!


"COME ALONG, TOTO", DOROTHY SAID, "WE WILL GO TO THE EMERALD CITY AND ASK OZ HOW TO GET TO KANSAS AGAIN!"
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, DAD--YOU'RE BREATHING TOO HARD.
5/31
THPLABAN





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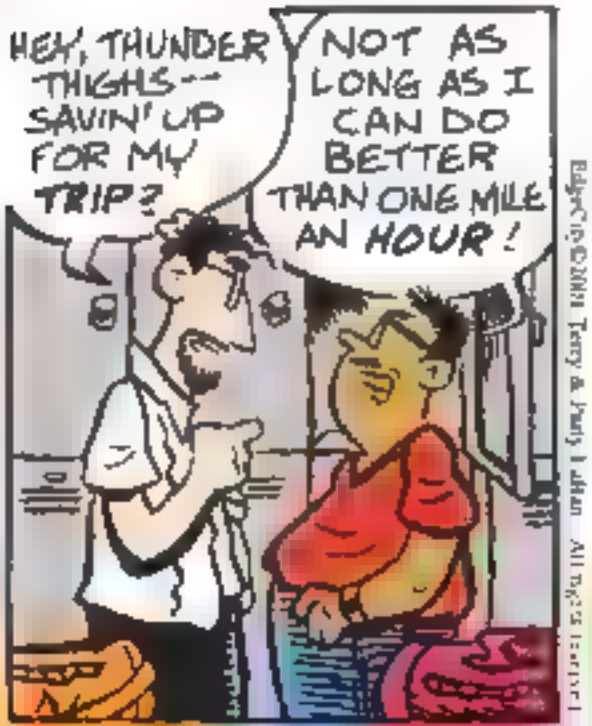
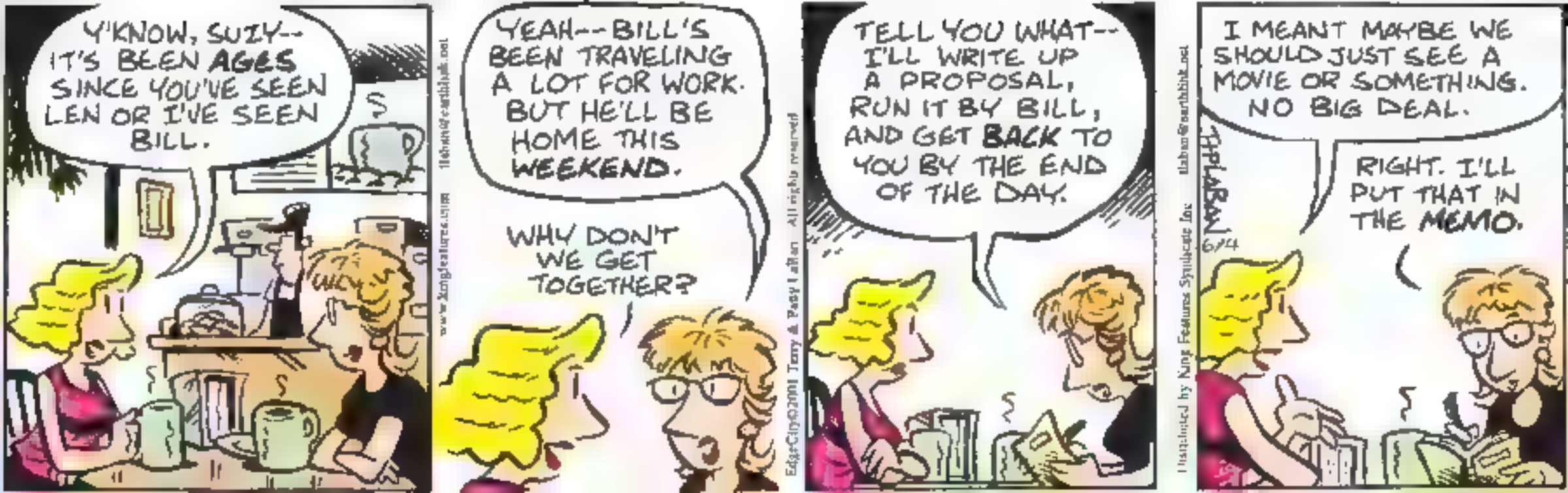
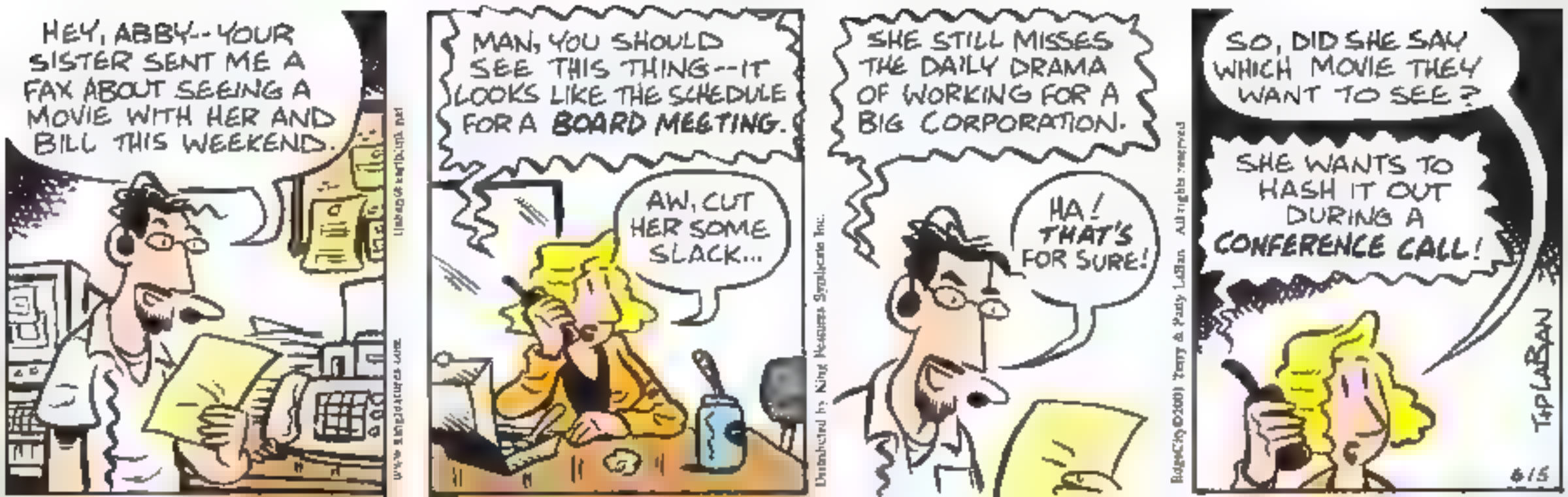

HEY, THUNDER THIGHS-- SAVIN' UP FOR MY TRIP?
NOT AS LONG AS I CAN DO BETTER THAN ONE MILE AN HOUR!

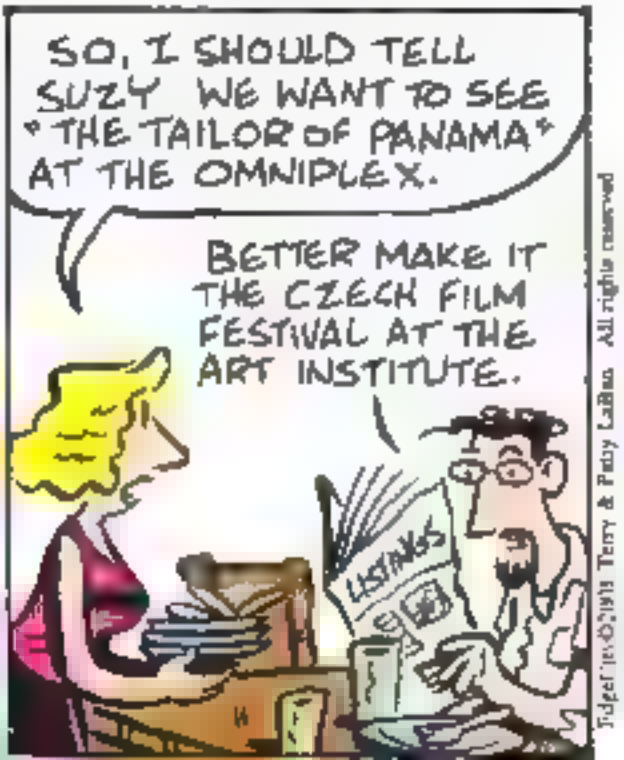
HEY, LEN AND SAM-- I HEAR YOU GUYS BET YOU COULD BEAT EACH OTHER IN A MARATHON.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND WHO ARE YOU BETTING ON?

I'M BETTING NEITHER OF YOU CAN FINISH IT AT ALL!

MAYBE WE SHOULD TRAIN TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?
SNORT!
6/12
T&PLABAN


Y'KNOW, SUZY-- IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE YOU'VE SEEN LEN OR I'VE SEEN BILL.
YEAH--BILL'S BEEN TRAVELING A LOT FOR WORK. BUT HE'LL BE HOME THIS WEEKEND.
WHY DON'T WE GET TOGETHER?
TELL YOU WHAT-- I'LL WRITE UP A PROPOSAL, RUN IT BY BILL, AND GET BACK TO YOU BY THE END OF THE DAY.
I MEANT MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST SEE A MOVIE OR SOMETHING. NO BIG DEAL.
RIGHT. I'LL PUT THAT IN THE MEMO.
TOPLABAN 6/4


HEY, ABBY--YOUR SISTER SENT ME A FAX ABOUT SEEING A MOVIE WITH HER AND BILL THIS WEEKEND.
MAN, YOU SHOULD SEE THIS THING--IT LOOKS LIKE THE SCHEDULE FOR A BOARD MEETING.
AW, CUT HER SOME SLACK...
SHE STILL MISSES THE DAILY DRAMA OF WORKING FOR A BIG CORPORATION.
HA! THAT'S FOR SURE!
SO, DID SHE SAY WHICH MOVIE THEY WANT TO SEE?
SHE WANTS TO HASH IT OUT DURING A CONFERENCE CALL!
TOPLABAN
6/15


SO, I SHOULD TELL SUZY WE WANT TO SEE "THE TAILOR OF PANAMA" AT THE OMNIPLEX.
BETTER MAKE IT THE CZECH FILM FESTIVAL AT THE ART INSTITUTE.
LISTINGS
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WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ABBY, YOUR SISTER'S USED TO NEGOTIATING WITH HOTSHOT CORPORATE LAWYERS.
6/6

IF WE START OUT WITH WHAT WE REALLY WANT, WE'LL GET BUFFALOED INTO SEEING SOME SLOP LIKE "SOMEONE LIKE YOU".
OH, PLEASE! JUST LET ME HANDLE IT. I KNOW MY SISTER!

YOU AND BILL ARE SET ON "SOMEONE LIKE YOU", HUH? WELL, WE'VE BEEN LEANING TOWARDS THIS CZECH FILM FESTIVAL...
TAPLARAN

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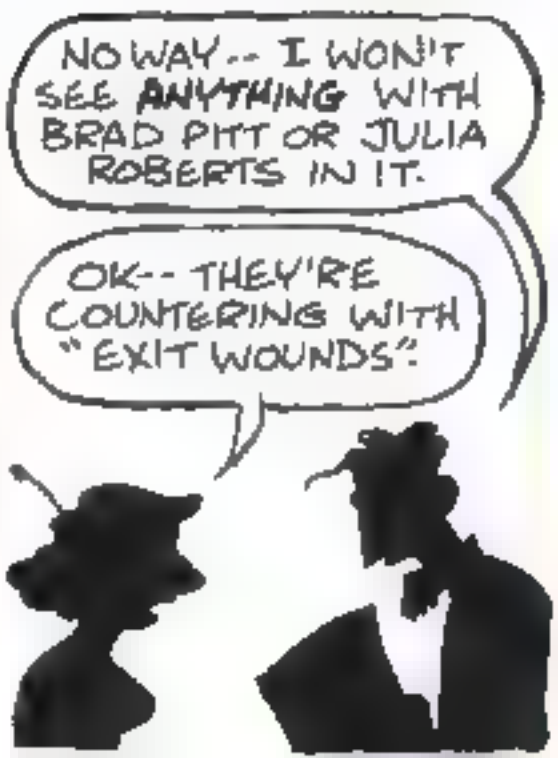

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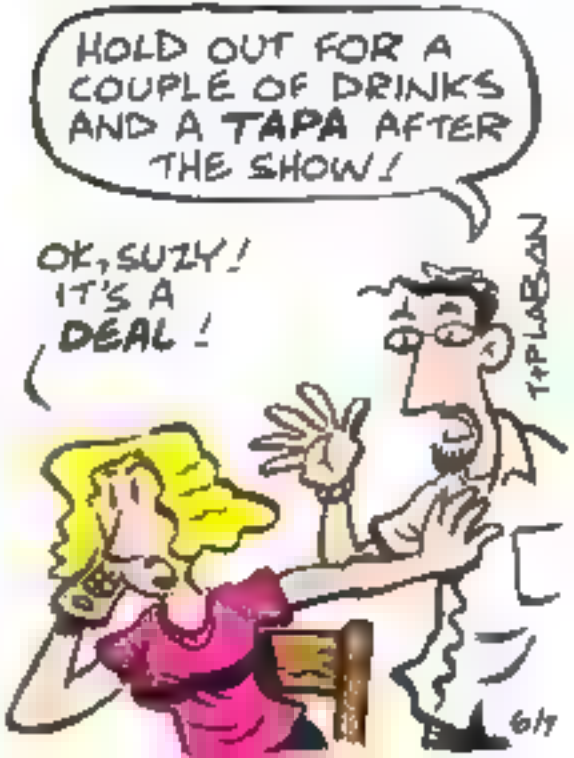
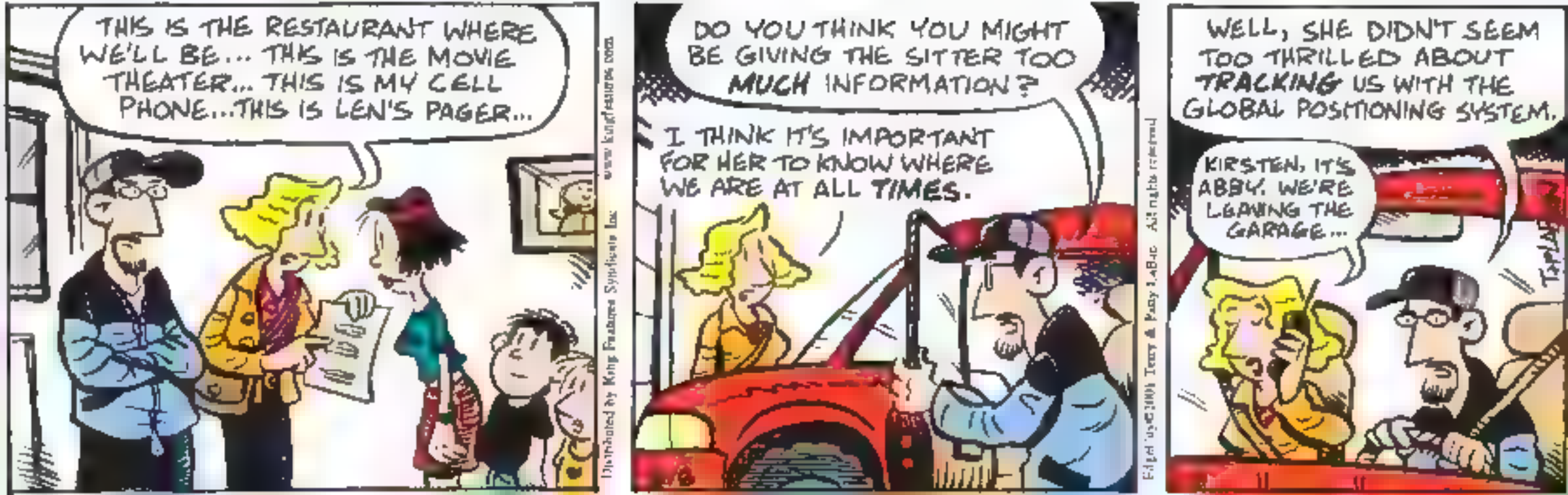
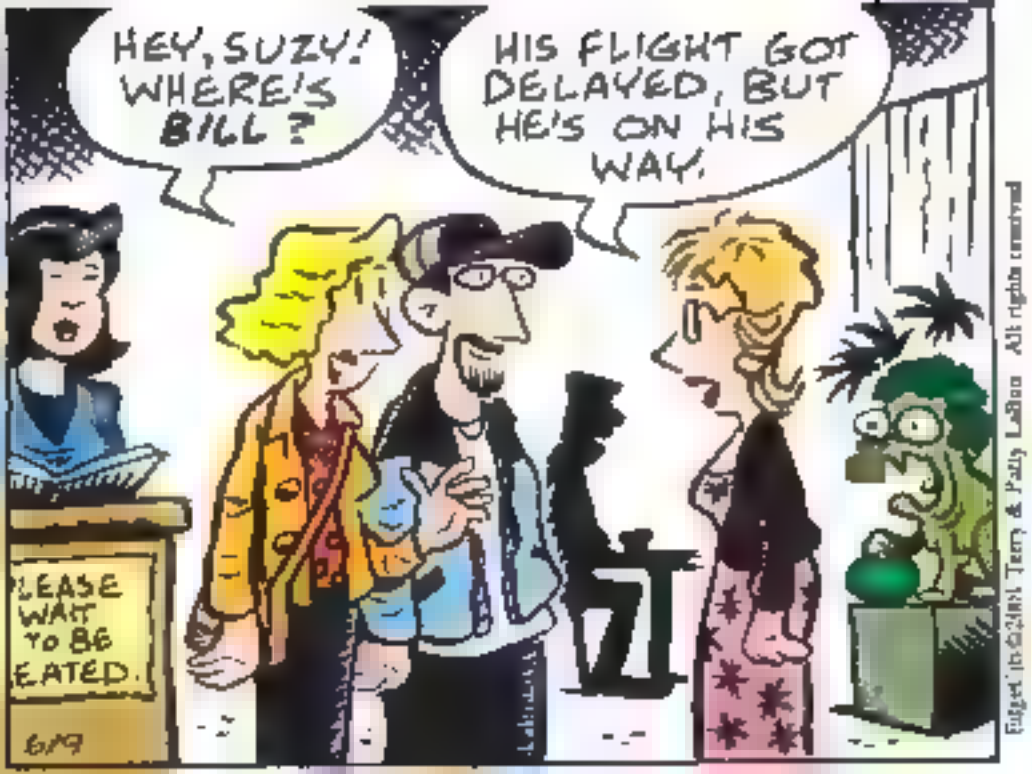



THIS IS THE RESTAURANT WHERE WE'LL BE... THIS IS THE MOVIE THEATER... THIS IS MY CELL PHONE...THIS IS LEN'S PAGER...
DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE GIVING THE SITTER TOO MUCH INFORMATION?
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR HER TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE AT ALL TIMES.
WELL, SHE DIDN'T SEEM TOO THRILLED ABOUT TRACKING US WITH THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM.
KIRSTEN, IT'S ABBY. WE'RE LEAVING THE GARAGE...



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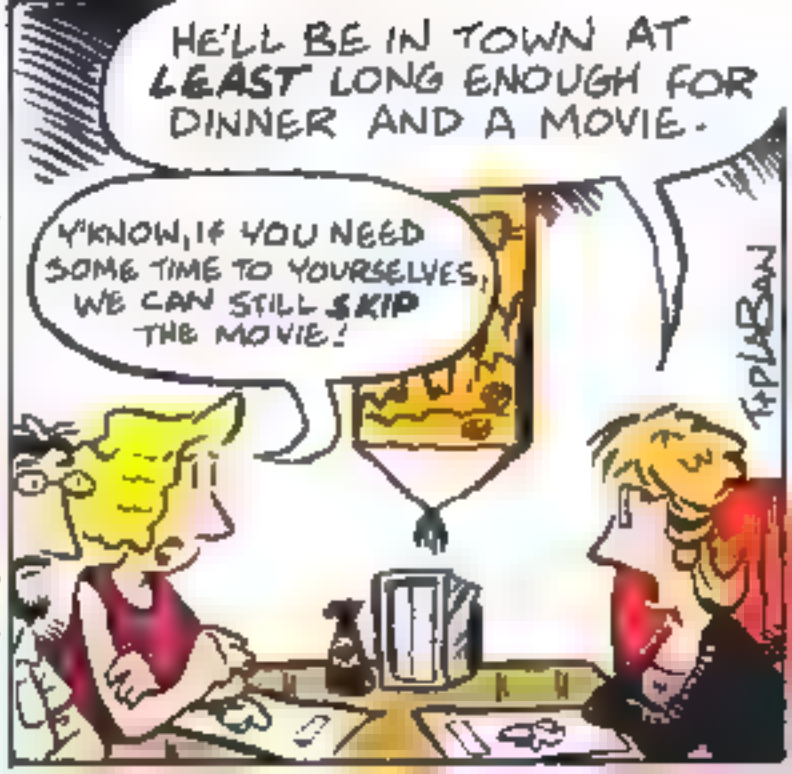

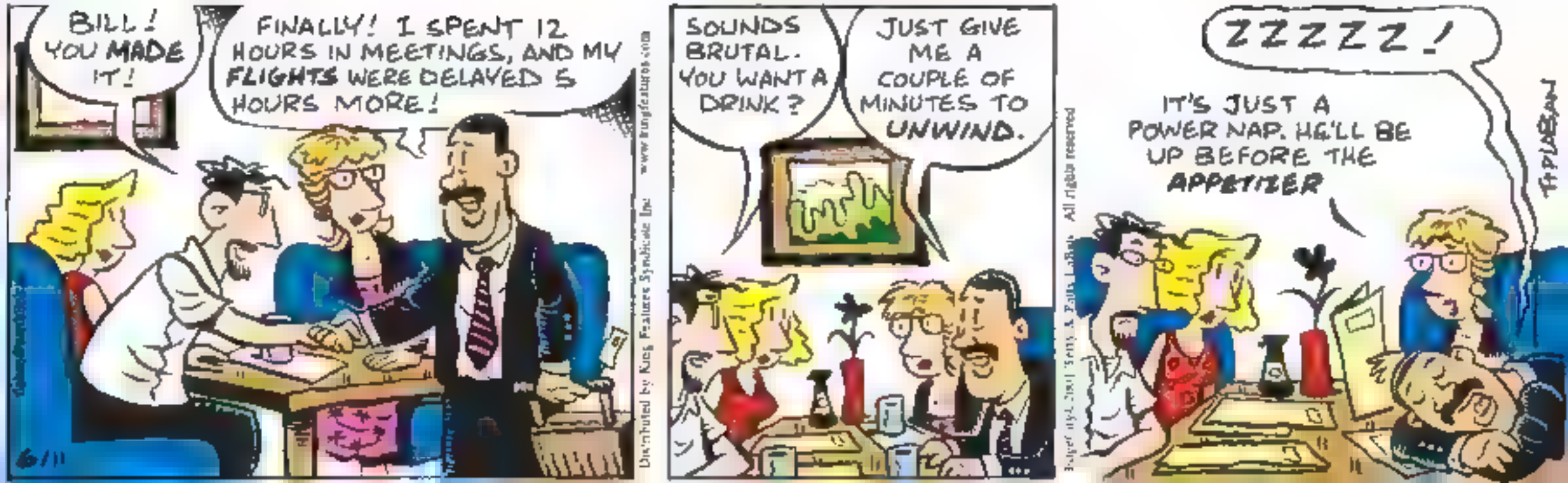
BILL! YOU MADE IT!
FINALLY! I SPENT 12 HOURS IN MEETINGS, AND MY FLIGHTS WERE DELAYED 5 HOURS MORE!
SOUNDS BRUTAL. YOU WANT A DRINK?
JUST GIVE ME A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO UNWIND.
ZZZZZ!
IT'S JUST A POWER NAP. HE'LL BE UP BEFORE THE APPETIZER
6/11
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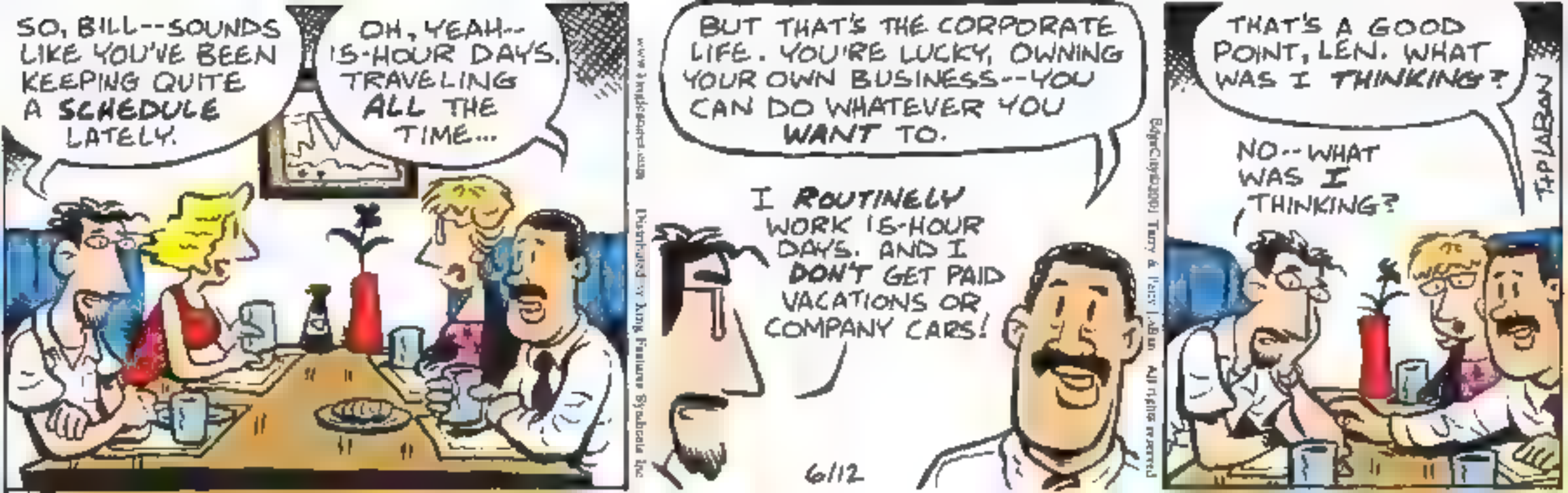

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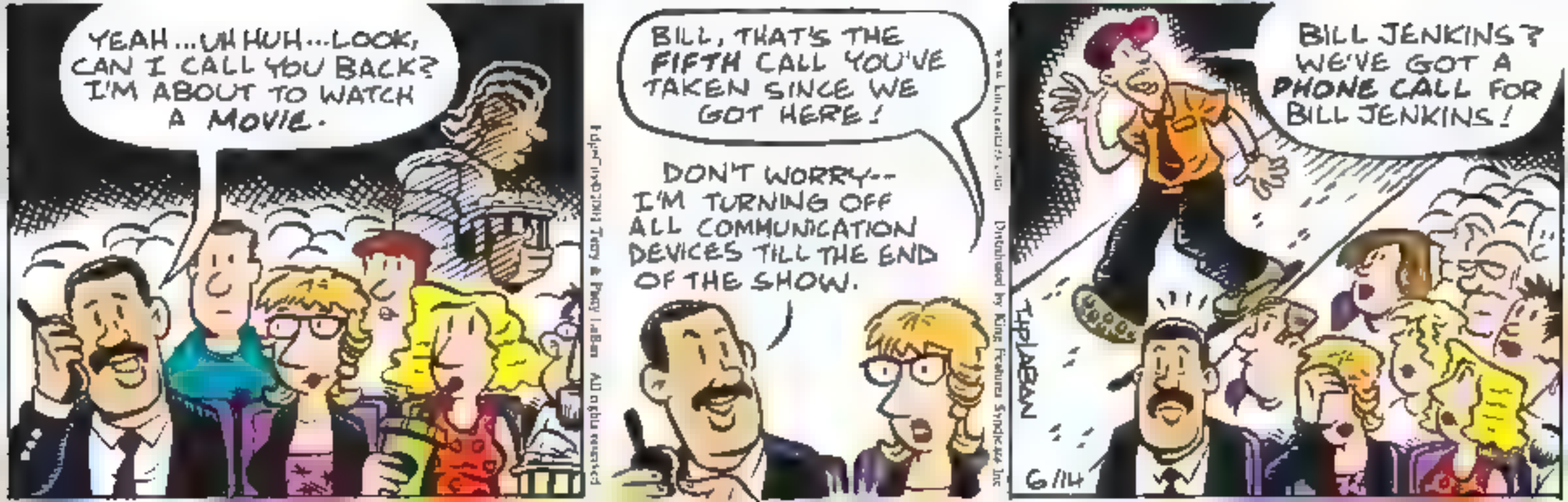
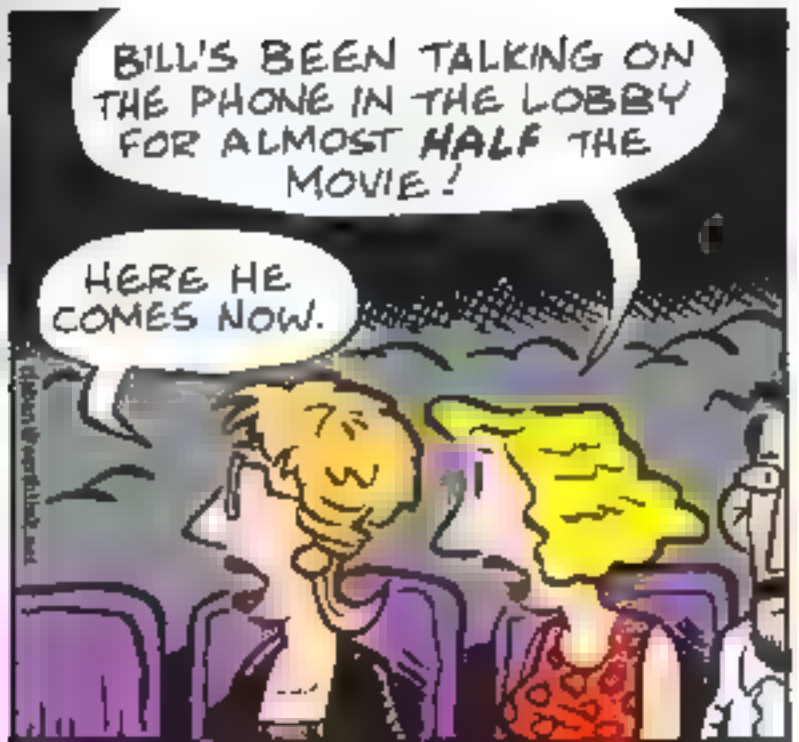
IF BILL MAKES SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HE'LL BE THE HIGHEST RANKING AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN THE COMPANY'S HISTORY.
IT'S NOT FOR SURE. BUT I'M QUALIFIED, AND, FRANKLY, THE BRASS KNOWS A LITTLE "DIVERSITY" WOULD MAKE IT LOOK BETTER.
DO YOU WORRY ABOUT ANYONE THINKING YOU WERE PROMOTED FOR REASONS BESIDES YOUR CREDENTIALS?
YOU ALWAYS DO.
BUT LESS WHEN THE GUY YOU'RE UP AGAINST IS THE GRANDSON OF THE CEO!


YEAH...UH HUH...LOOK, CAN I CALL YOU BACK? I'M ABOUT TO WATCH A MOVIE.
BILL, THAT'S THE FIFTH CALL YOU'VE TAKEN SINCE WE GOT HERE!
DON'T WORRY-- I'M TURNING OFF ALL COMMUNICATION DEVICES TILL THE END OF THE SHOW.
BILL JENKINS? WE'VE GOT A PHONE CALL FOR BILL JENKINS!
THPLABAN
6/14


BILL'S BEEN TALKING ON THE PHONE IN THE LOBBY FOR ALMOST HALF THE MOVIE!
HERE HE COMES NOW.

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. I JUST REALLY HAVE TO GO.

SO, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THE GARLIC SHRIMP.
I MEAN TO TORONTO.
THPLARSON
6/15

IT'S TOO BAD BILL HAD TO LEAVE WITHOUT EVEN SEEING THE MOVIE.
HIS WORK IS REALLY DEMANDING RIGHT NOW.
OMNIPLEX
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AND NOT JUST FOR HIM. IT'S INCREDIBLY STRESSFUL RUNNING EVERYTHING ON MY OWN. IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO TIME FOR ANYTHING BUT CRISES THESE DAYS.
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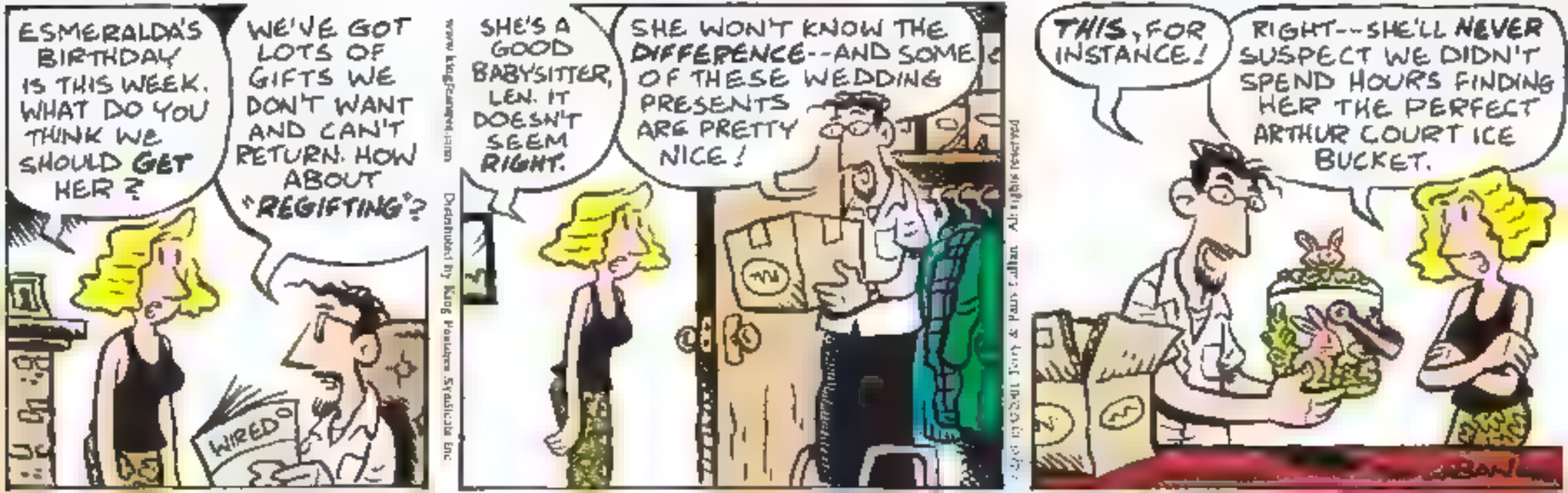
THERE'S NO WAY TO CHANGE THINGS SO HE COULD BE AROUND MORE?
NO...
6/16
tlaban@earthlink.net
...NOT IF WE WANT TO MAINTAIN OUR QUALITY OF LIFE!
TP LABAN


ESMERALDA'S BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GET HER?
WE'VE GOT LOTS OF GIFTS WE DON'T WANT AND CAN'T RETURN. HOW ABOUT "REGIFTING"?
WIRED
www.kingfeatures.com
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SHE'S A GOOD BABYSITTER, LEN. IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
SHE WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE--AND SOME OF THESE WEDDING PRESENTS ARE PRETTY NICE!
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THIS, FOR INSTANCE!
RIGHT--SHE'LL NEVER SUSPECT WE DIDN'T SPEND HOURS FINDING HER THE PERFECT ARTHUR COURT ICE BUCKET.

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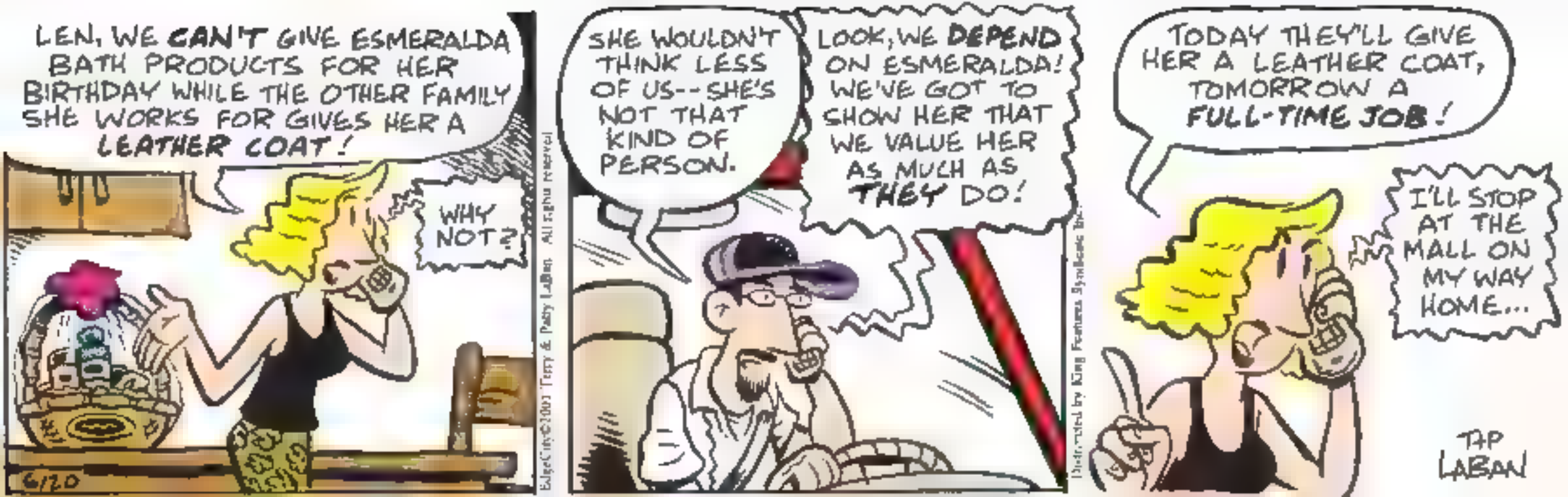
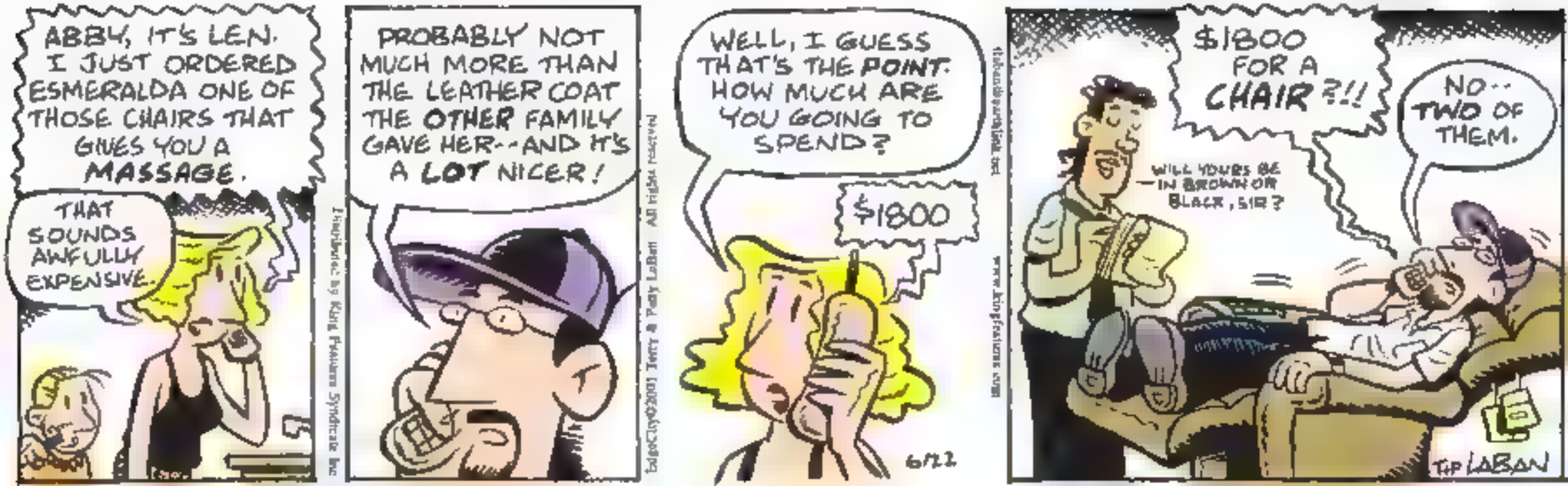
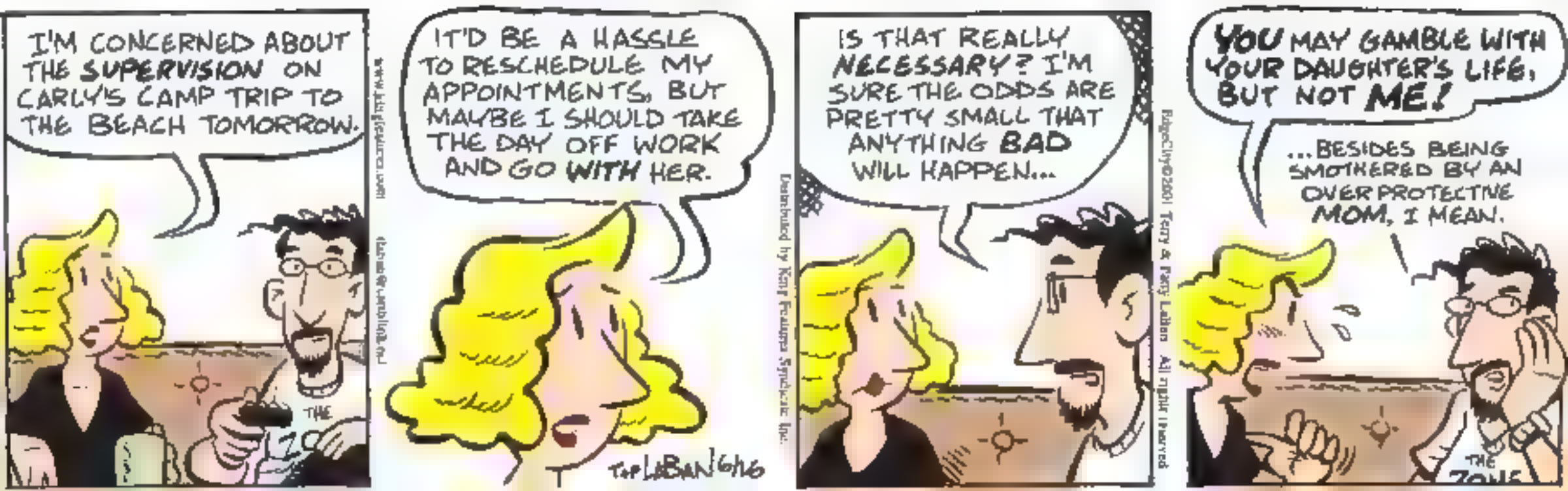

LEN, WE CAN'T GIVE ESMERALDA BATH PRODUCTS FOR HER BIRTHDAY WHILE THE OTHER FAMILY SHE WORKS FOR GIVES HER A LEATHER COAT!
WHY NOT?
6/20
SHE WOULDN'T THINK LESS OF US--SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON.
LOOK, WE DEPEND ON ESMERALDA! WE'VE GOT TO SHOW HER THAT WE VALUE HER AS MUCH AS THEY DO!
TODAY THEY'LL GIVE HER A LEATHER COAT, TOMORROW A FULL-TIME JOB!
I'LL STOP AT THE MALL ON MY WAY HOME...
TAP LABAN

I NEED A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR AN EMPLOYEE.
FOR AROUND $30 WE HAVE A SOLAR RADIO OR A PEN THAT FRESHENS THE AIR.
6/21
I'M THINKING OF SOMETHING A LITTLE NICER.
IT'S A TOP-LEVEL EMPLOYEE?
ACTUALLY, IT'S MY KIDS' NANNY.
OH-- I SEE.
FOR $900, WE HAVE A GENUINE SHIATSU MASSAGE CHAIR!
WHAT IF SHE'S ONLY PART-TIME?
BUZZ!
TED LABAN


ABBY, IT'S LEN. I JUST ORDERED ESMERALDA ONE OF THOSE CHAIRS THAT GIVES YOU A MASSAGE.
THAT SOUNDS AWFULLY EXPENSIVE.
PROBABLY NOT MUCH MORE THAN THE LEATHER COAT THE OTHER FAMILY GAVE HER--AND IT'S A LOT NICER!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE POINT. HOW MUCH ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND?
$1800
6/22
$1800 FOR A CHAIR?!!
WILL YOURS BE —IN BROWN OR BLACK, SIR?
NO-- TWO OF THEM.
TIP LABAN

ABBY, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR DA WONDERFUL MASSAGE CHAIR!
YOU'RE WELCOME, ESMERALDA.
6/28
I HAD SUCH A NICE BIRTHDAY--DA CHAIR FROM YOU, AN DA LEATHER COAT AN' EVERYTEENG ELSE FROM DA OTHER FAMILY I WORK FOR.
EVERYTHING ELSE?
DEY ALSO GAVE ME A WEEK'S VACATION AND A RAISE!
PLOP!

DON'T FORGET THE CAMP'S GOING ON A FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY.
I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT.
6/26
ARE YOU SURE THE KIDS WILL BE WELL-SUPERVISED? THE BEACH IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS OUR #1 RESPONSIBILITY. HERE'S THE PERMISSION SLIP.
WHAT ARE ALL THESE OTHER FORMS?
WAIVERS OF LIABILITY.
CAMP SUNSHINE STAFF
TRIP LABAN


I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUPERVISION ON CARLY'S CAMP TRIP TO THE BEACH TOMORROW.
IT'D BE A HASSLE TO RESCHEDULE MY APPOINTMENTS, BUT MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE DAY OFF WORK AND GO WITH HER.
IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY? I'M SURE THE ODDS ARE PRETTY SMALL THAT ANYTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN...
YOU MAY GAMBLE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE, BUT NOT ME!
...BESIDES BEING SMOTHERED BY AN OVERPROTECTIVE MOM, I MEAN.
THE ZONE
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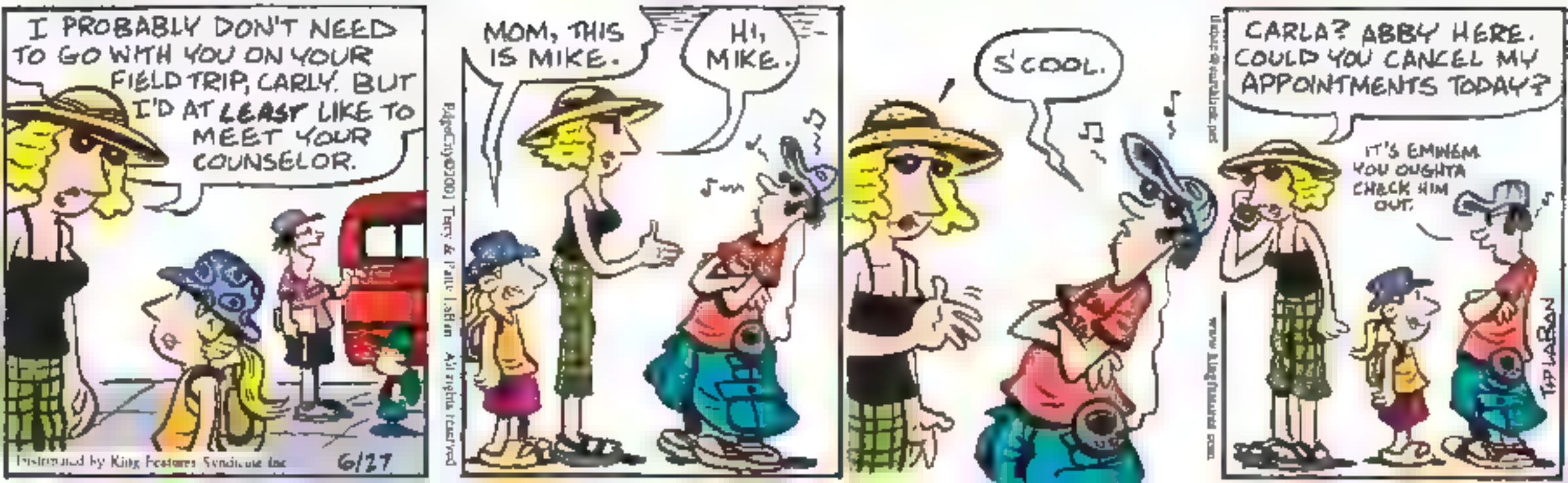
I PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO GO WITH YOU ON YOUR FIELD TRIP, CARLY. BUT I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO MEET YOUR COUNSELOR.
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6/27
MOM, THIS IS MIKE.
HI, MIKE.
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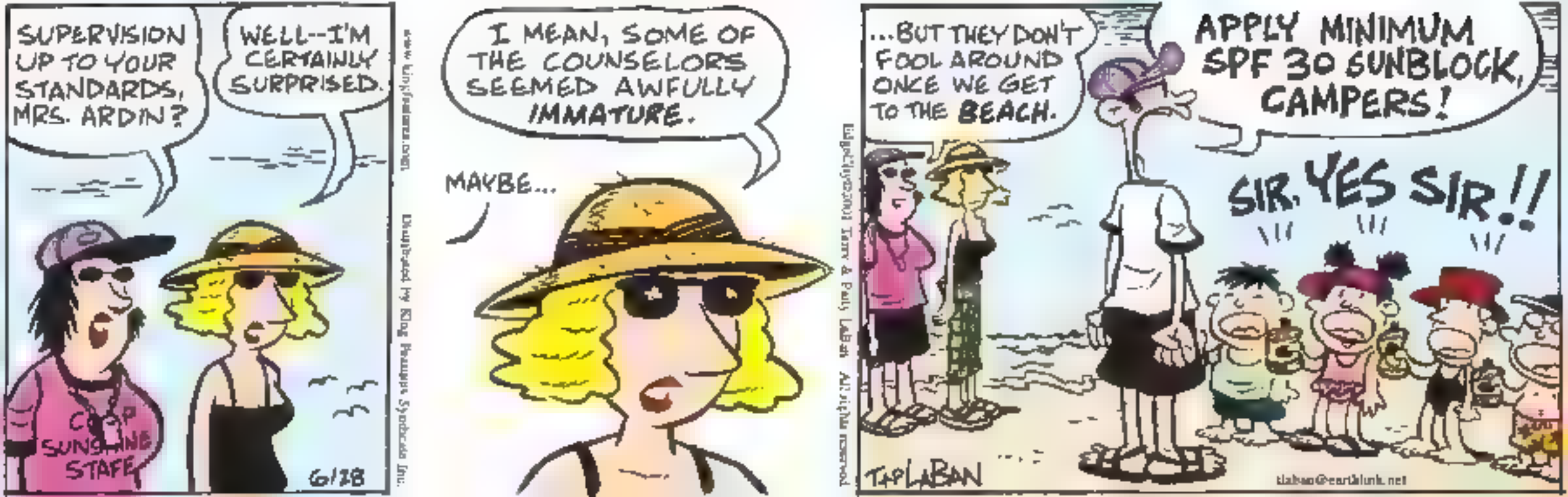
S'COOL.
CARLA? ABBY HERE. COULD YOU CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS TODAY?
IT'S EMINEM. YOU OUGHTA CHECK HIM OUT.
TAP LARSON



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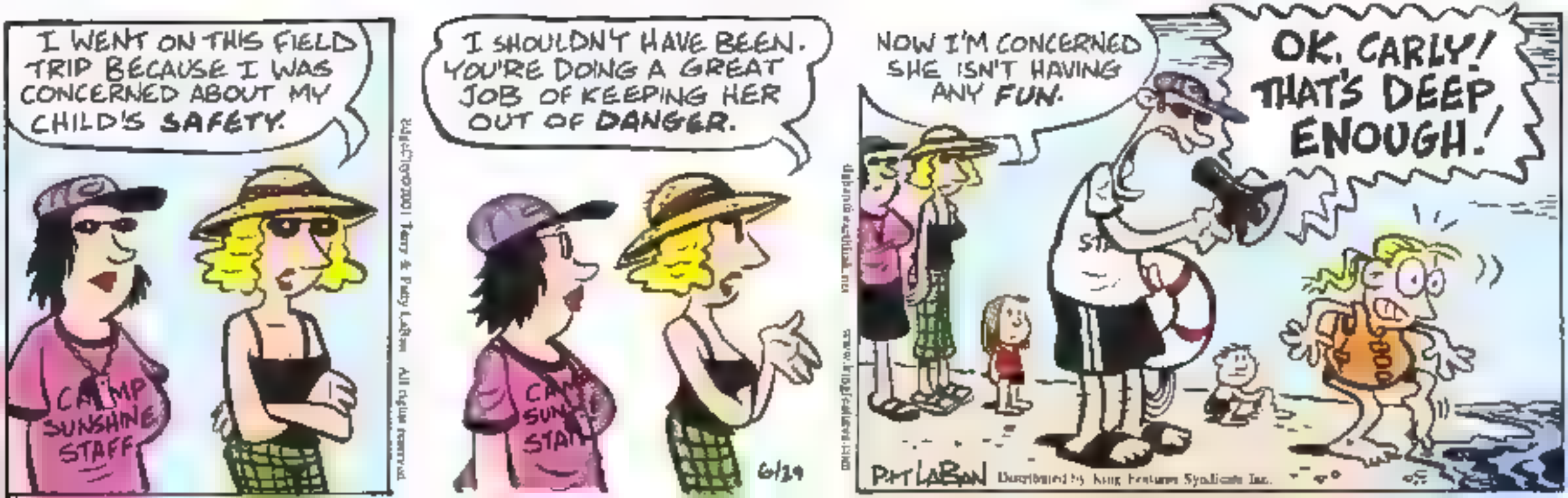
I WENT ON THIS FIELD TRIP BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT MY CHILD'S SAFETY.
CAMP SUNSHINE STAFF
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN. YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB OF KEEPING HER OUT OF DANGER.
6/29
NOW I'M CONCERNED SHE ISN'T HAVING ANY FUN.
OK, CARLY! THAT'S DEEP ENOUGH!
PAT LABAN
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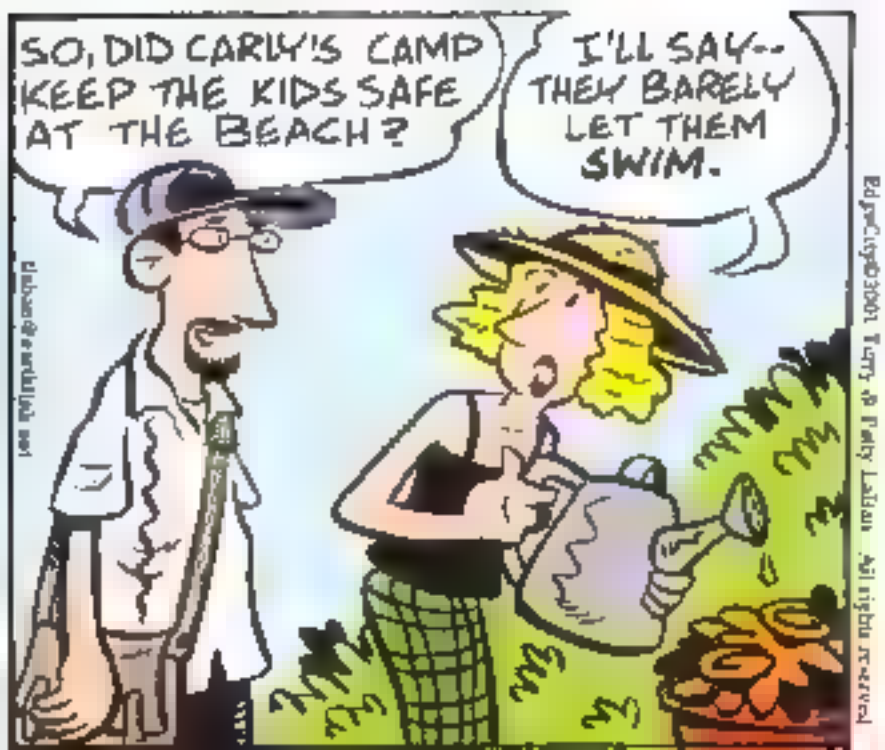

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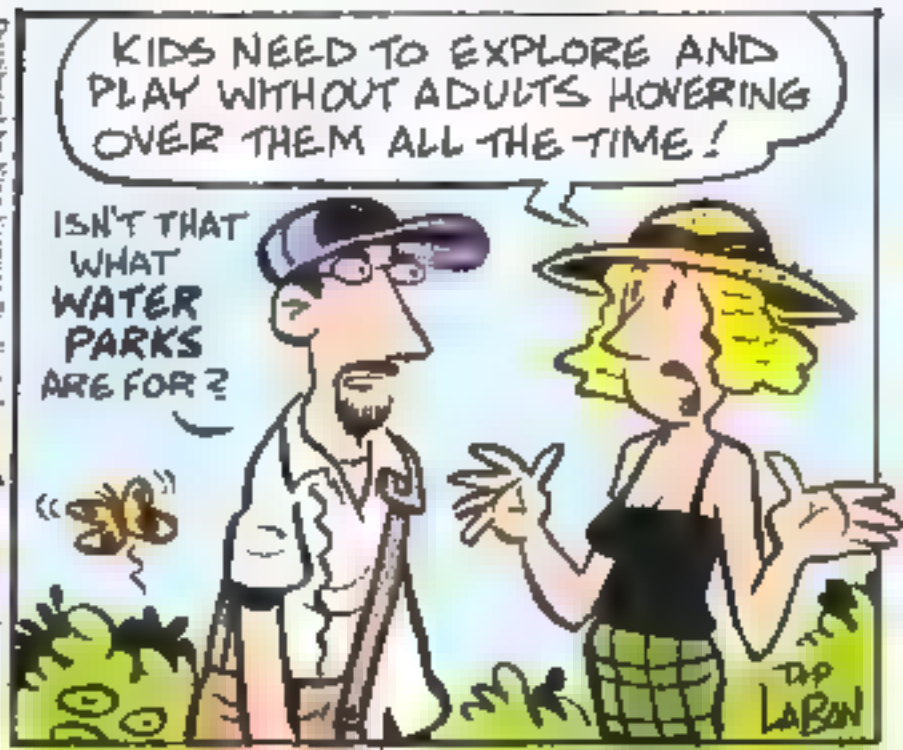

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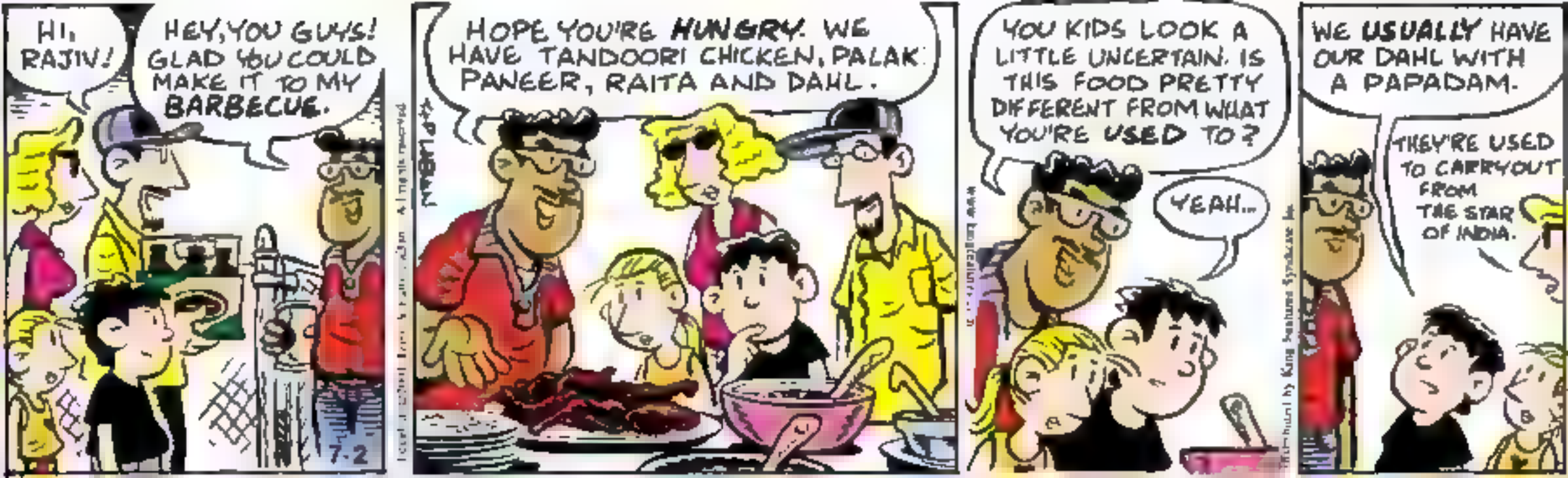
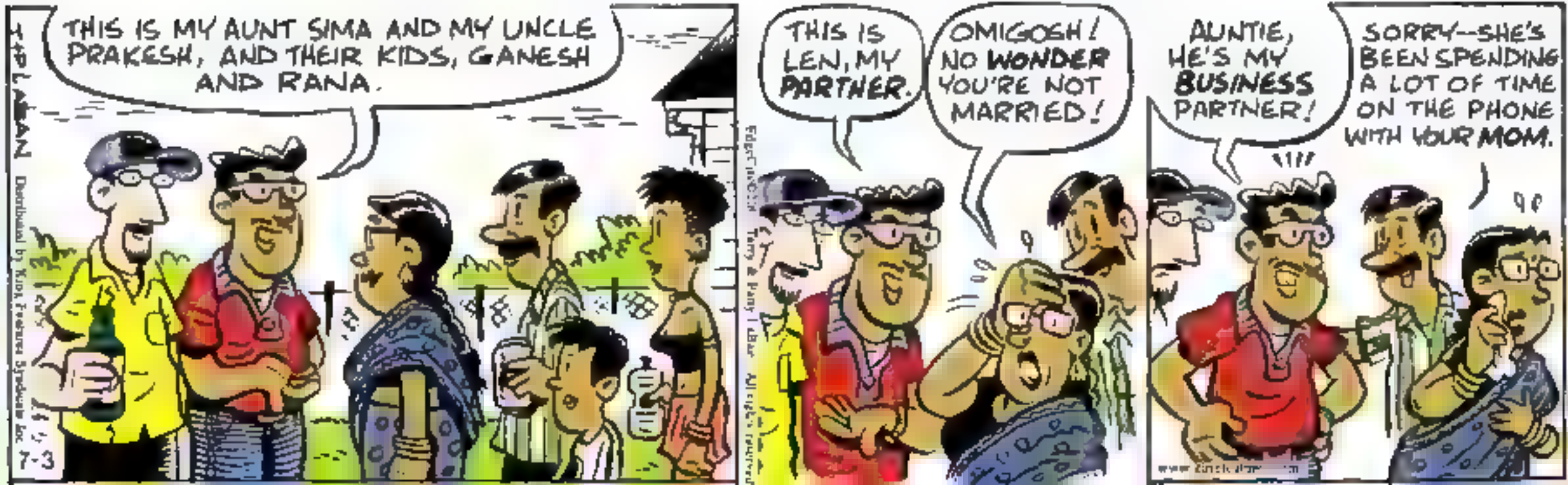
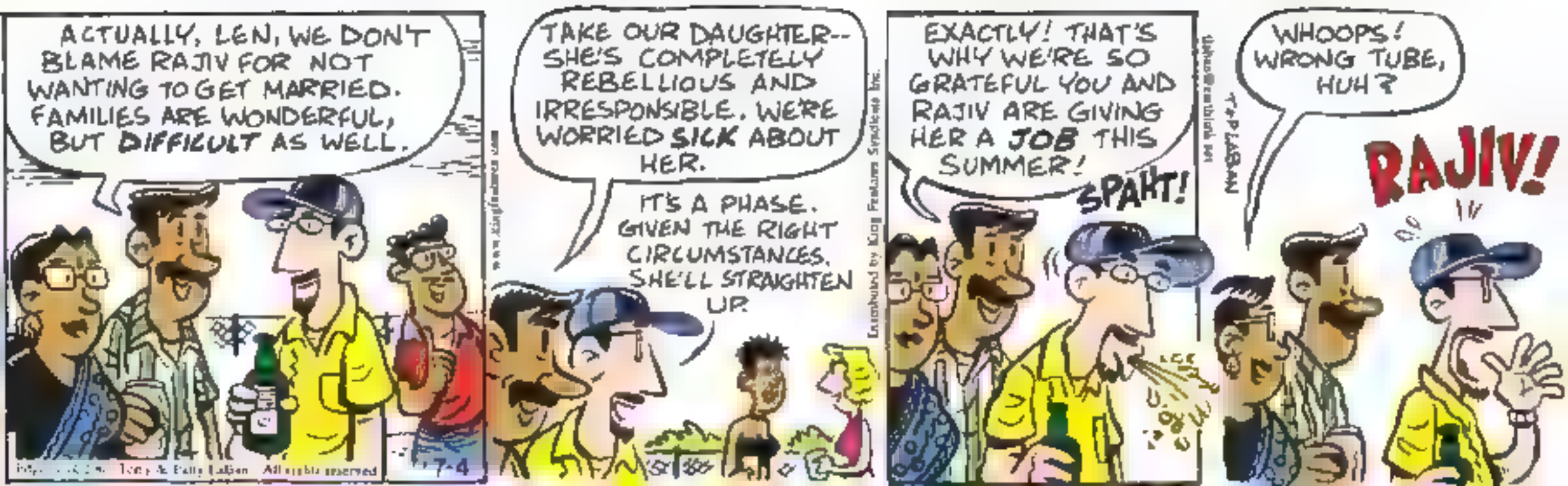
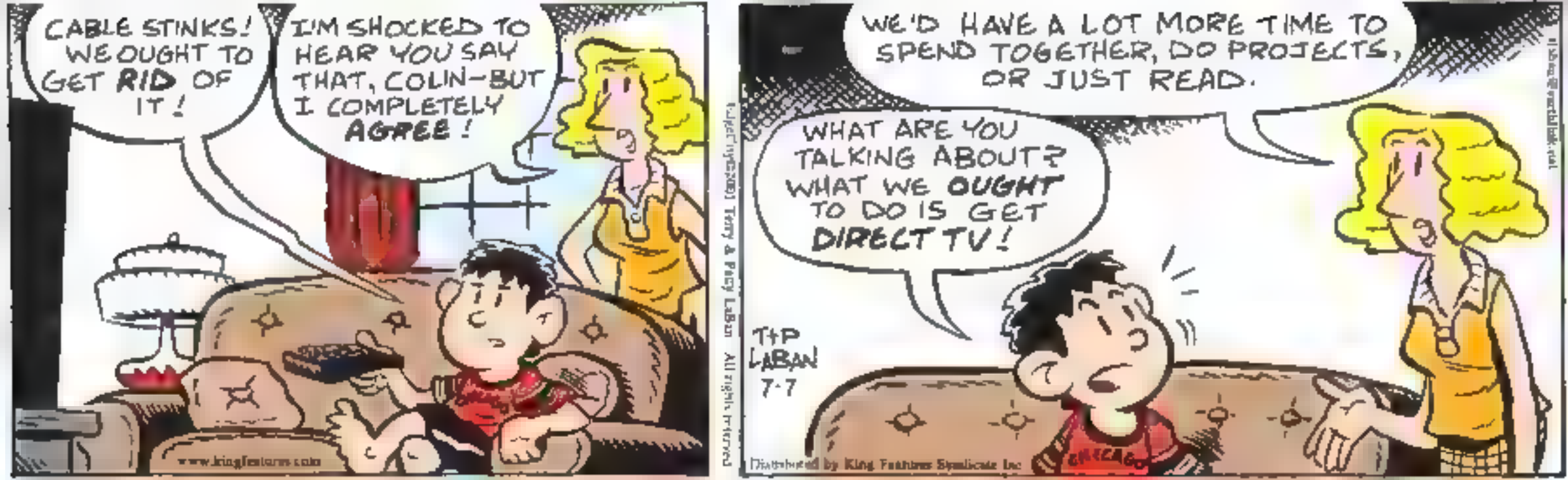

HI, RAJIV!
HEY, YOU GUYS! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT TO MY BARBECUE.
7-2
HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY. WE HAVE TANDOORI CHICKEN, PALAK PANEER, RAITA AND DAHL.
YOU KIDS LOOK A LITTLE UNCERTAIN. IS THIS FOOD PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'RE USED TO?
YEAH...
WE USUALLY HAVE OUR DAHL WITH A PAPADAM.
THEY'RE USED TO CARRYOUT FROM THE STAR OF INDIA.


THIS IS MY AUNT SIMA AND MY UNCLE PRAKESH, AND THEIR KIDS, GANESH AND RANA.
THIS IS LEN, MY PARTNER.
OMIGOSH! NO WONDER YOU'RE NOT MARRIED!
AUNTIE, HE'S MY BUSINESS PARTNER!
SORRY--SHE'S BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ON THE PHONE WITH YOUR MOM.


ACTUALLY, LEN, WE DON'T BLAME RAJIV FOR NOT WANTING TO GET MARRIED. FAMILIES ARE WONDERFUL, BUT DIFFICULT AS WELL.
7-4
TAKE OUR DAUGHTER-- SHE'S COMPLETELY REBELLIOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. WE'RE WORRIED SICK ABOUT HER.
IT'S A PHASE. GIVEN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE'LL STRAIGHTEN UP.
EXACTLY! THAT'S WHY WE'RE SO GRATEFUL YOU AND RAJIV ARE GIVING HER A JOB THIS SUMMER!
SPAKT!
WHOOPS! WRONG TUBE, HUH?
RAJIV!

RAJIV, DID YOU TELL YOUR AUNT AND UNCLE WE'D HIRE YOUR COUSIN FOR THE SUMMER?
NO -- THEY ASKED ME, AND I SAID I WASN'T SURE.
APPARENTLY, THEY TOOK THAT TO MEAN "YES."
WELL -- THEY DO HAVE A WAY OF HEARING WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.
ANYHOW, I'D BETTER NIP THIS IN THE BUD.
YOU KNOW, WE HOPE YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A RELATIVE!
7-5
TOPLABAN

I AGREE-- THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HIRE MY COUSIN. THE PROBLEM IS TELLING MY UNCLE AND AUNT.
I NEED TO BE DIPLOMATIC HERE. IT'D BE EASY TO CAUSE A FAMILY CRISIS.
LET'S TALK TO RANA. IT MIGHT HELP IF SHE UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION.
7-6
LISTEN, RANA-- YOUR PARENTS MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WORKING FOR US THIS SUMMER...
WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU-- I'M GOING TO BE A D.J.!!
SO-- DIPLOMACY'S A PRIORITY IN YOUR FAMILY?


CABLE STINKS! WE OUGHT TO GET RID OF IT!
I'M SHOCKED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, COLIN—BUT I COMPLETELY AGREE!
www.kingfeatures.com
WE'D HAVE A LOT MORE TIME TO SPEND TOGETHER, DO PROJECTS, OR JUST READ.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO IS GET DIRECT TV!
T+P LABAN 7-7
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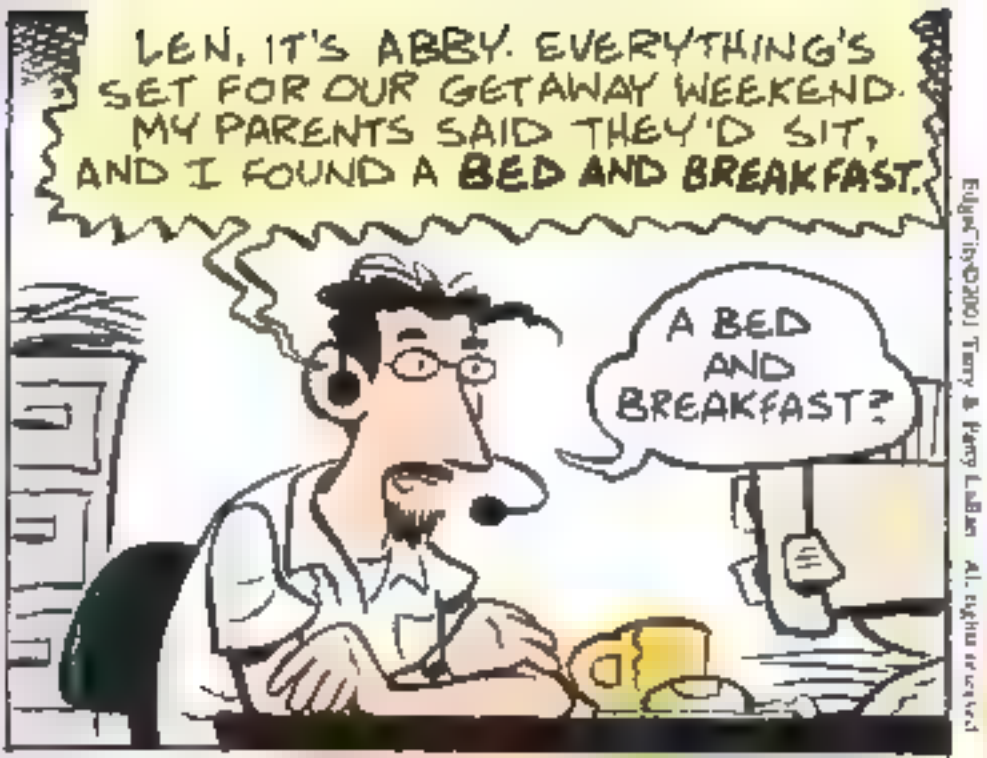
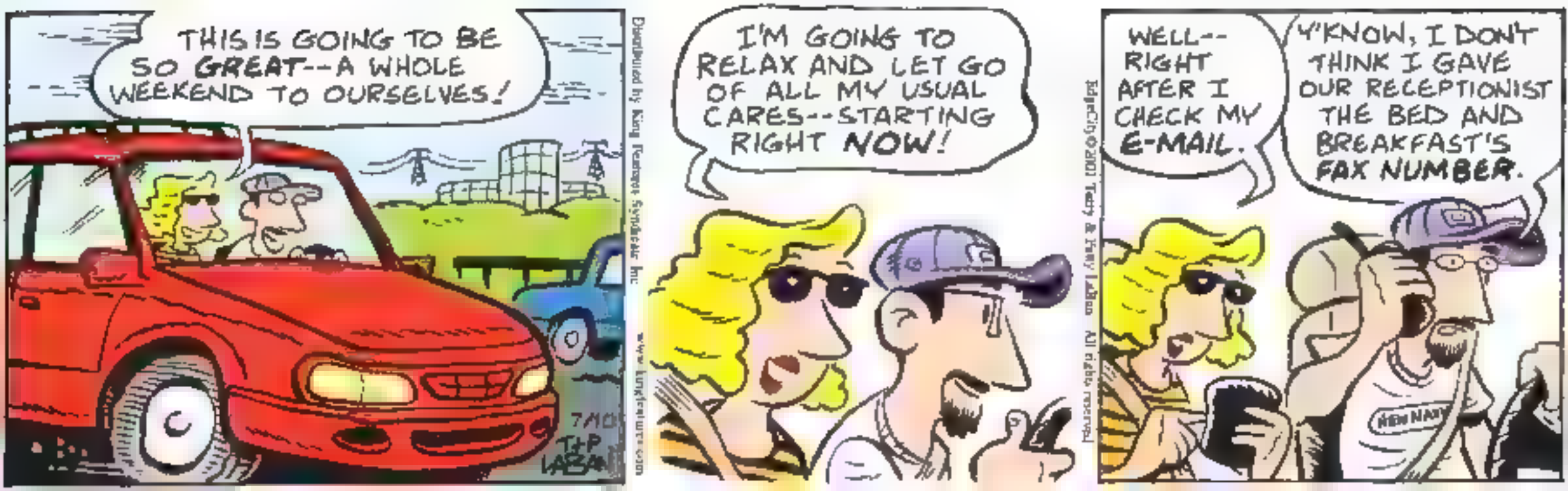

LEN, IT'S ABBY. EVERYTHING'S SET FOR OUR GETAWAY WEEKEND. MY PARENTS SAID THEY'D SIT, AND I FOUND A **BED AND BREAKFAST.**
A BED AND BREAKFAST?

NOT ONE OF THOSE **CUTESY** PLACES WITH PILES OF VICTORIAN BRIC-A-BRAC.
IT SOUNDS NICE. IT'S GOT JACUZZIS, BIKES TO RENT, AND IT'S RIGHT IN TOWN.

HUH! SO, WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"THE WEE LITTLE HOUSEY!"
7/9


THIS IS GOING TO BE SO GREAT--A WHOLE WEEKEND TO OURSELVES!
I'M GOING TO RELAX AND LET GO OF ALL MY USUAL CARES--STARTING RIGHT NOW!
WELL--RIGHT AFTER I CHECK MY E-MAIL.
Y'KNOW, I DON'T THINK I GAVE OUR RECEPTIONIST THE BED AND BREAKFAST'S FAX NUMBER.
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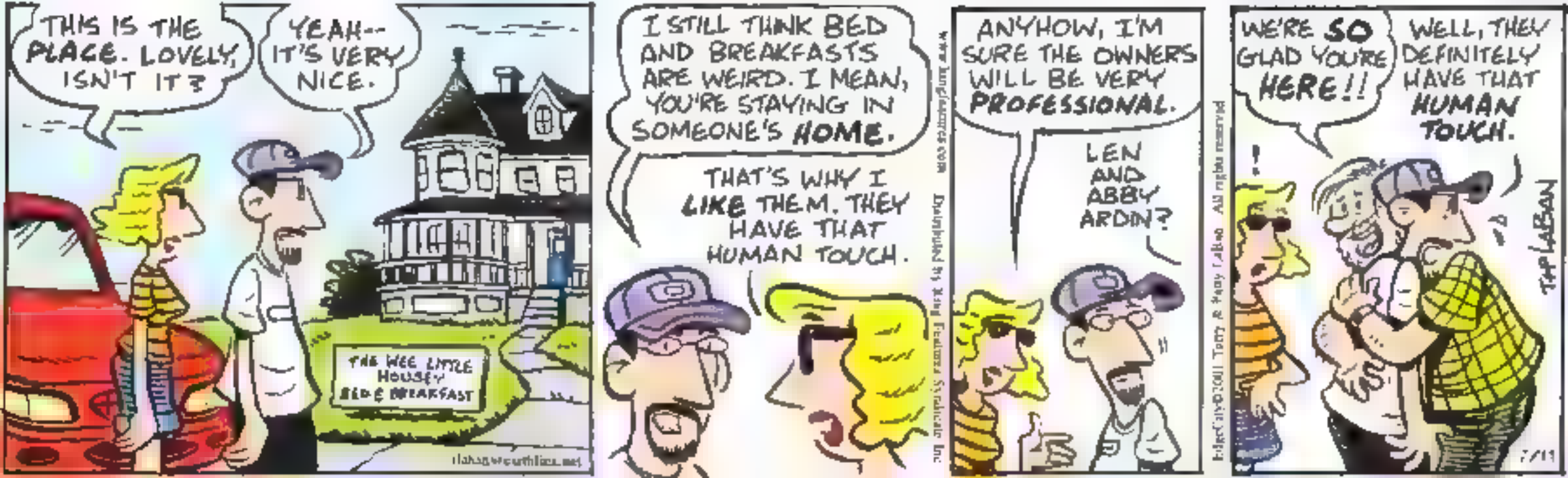
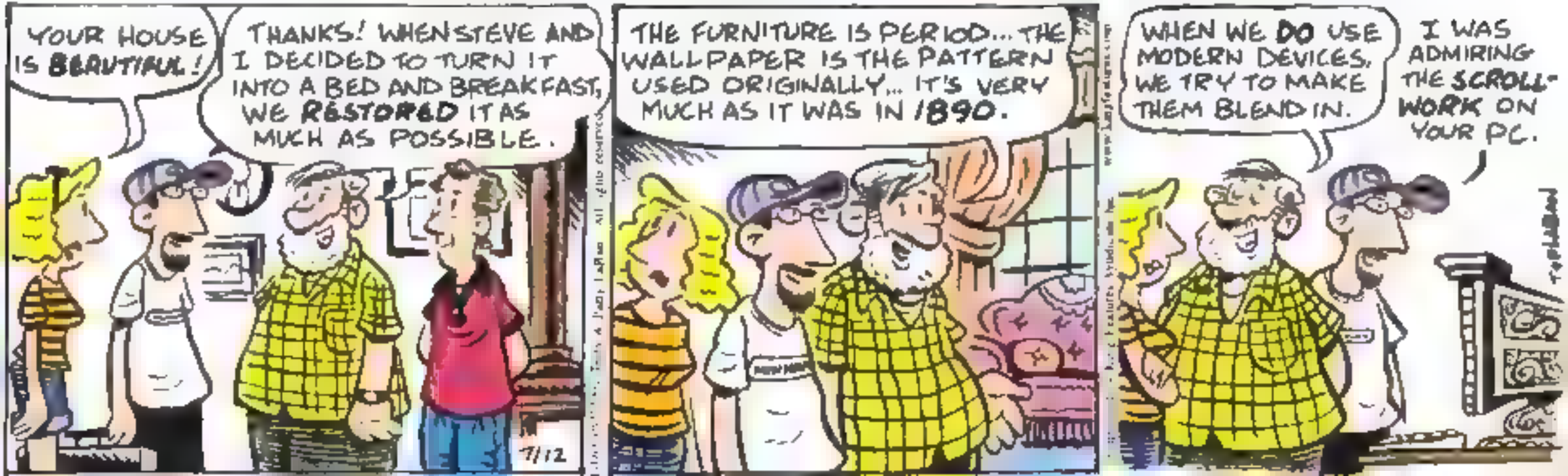
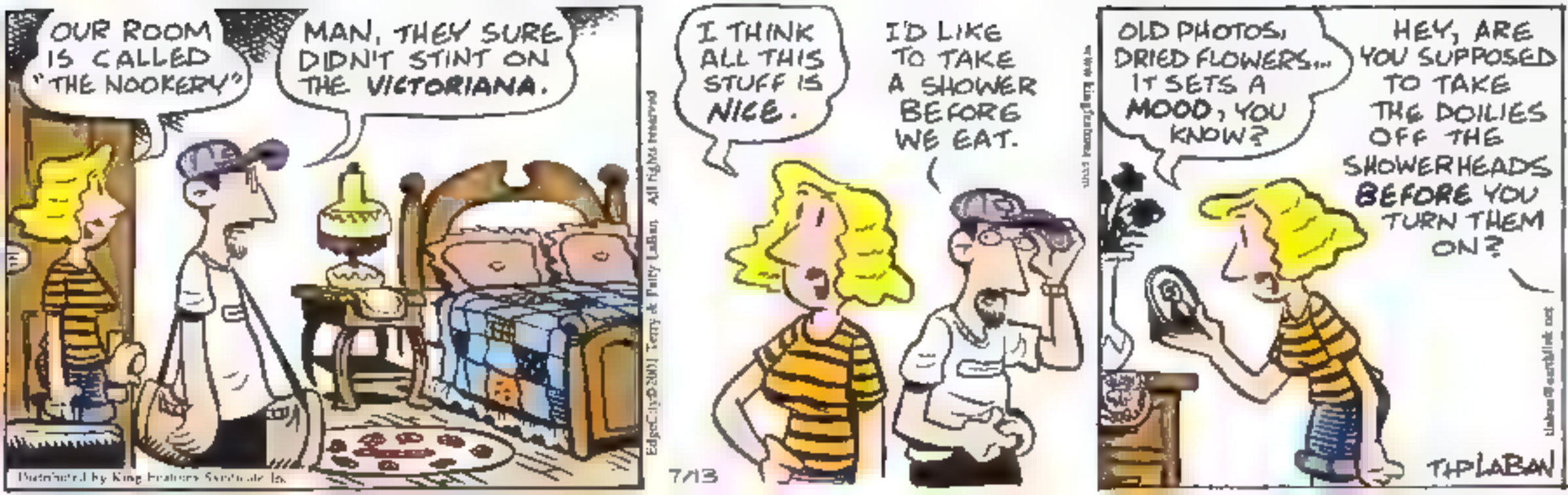

THIS IS THE PLACE. LOVELY, ISN'T IT?
YEAH-- IT'S VERY NICE.
THE WEE LITTLE HOUSEY BED & BREAKFAST
I STILL THINK BED AND BREAKFASTS ARE WEIRD. I MEAN, YOU'RE STAYING IN SOMEONE'S HOME.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE THEM. THEY HAVE THAT HUMAN TOUCH.
ANYHOW, I'M SURE THE OWNERS WILL BE VERY PROFESSIONAL.
LEN AND ABBY ARDIN?
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!!
WELL, THEY DEFINITELY HAVE THAT HUMAN TOUCH.
!
THP LABAN


YOUR HOUSE IS BEAUTIFUL!
THANKS! WHEN STEVE AND I DECIDED TO TURN IT INTO A BED AND BREAKFAST, WE RESTORED IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
7/12
THE FURNITURE IS PERIOD... THE WALLPAPER IS THE PATTERN USED ORIGINALLY... IT'S VERY MUCH AS IT WAS IN 1890.
WHEN WE DO USE MODERN DEVICES, WE TRY TO MAKE THEM BLEND IN.
I WAS ADMIRING THE SCROLL-WORK ON YOUR PC.


OUR ROOM IS CALLED "THE NOOKERY"
MAN, THEY SURE DIDN'T STINT ON THE VICTORIANA.
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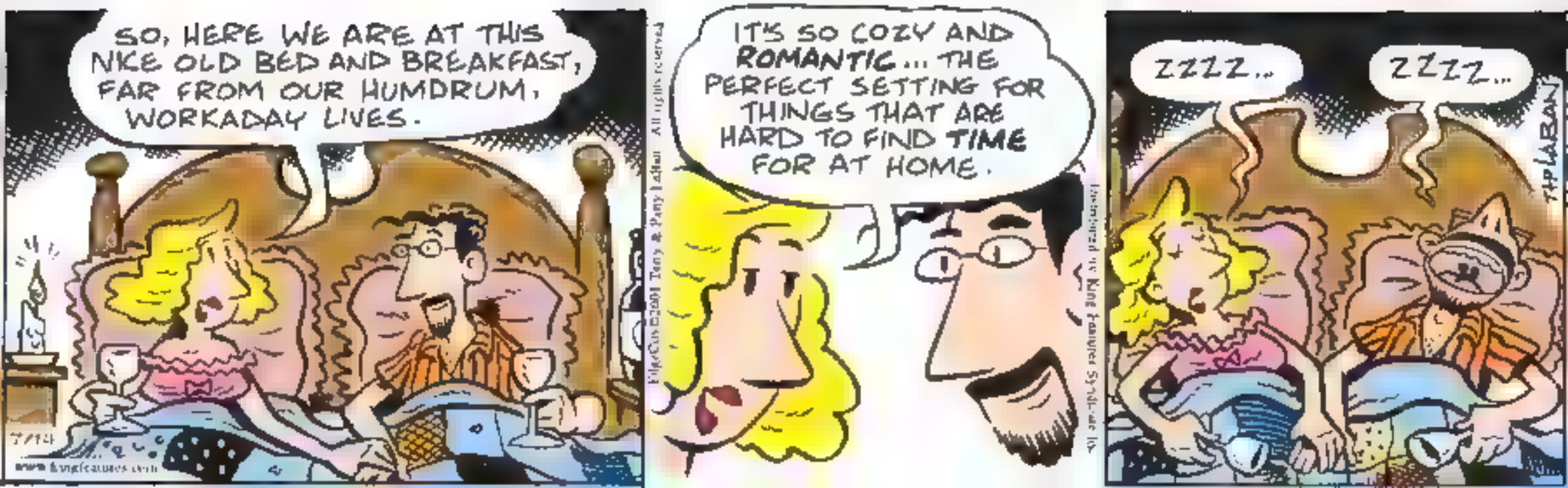
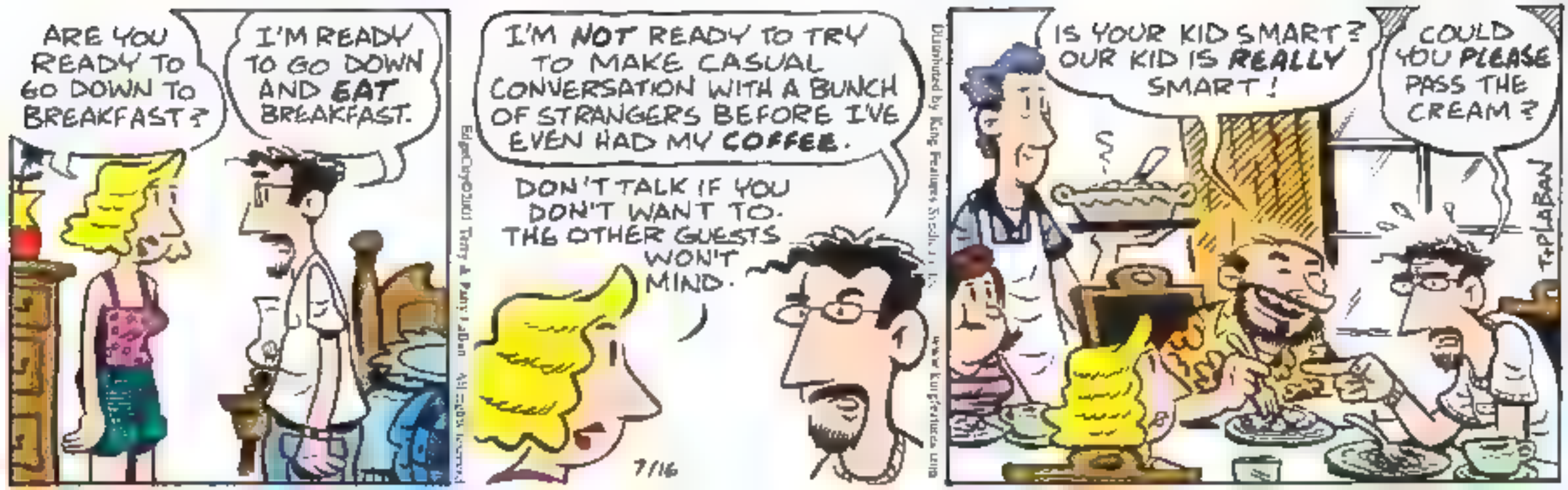
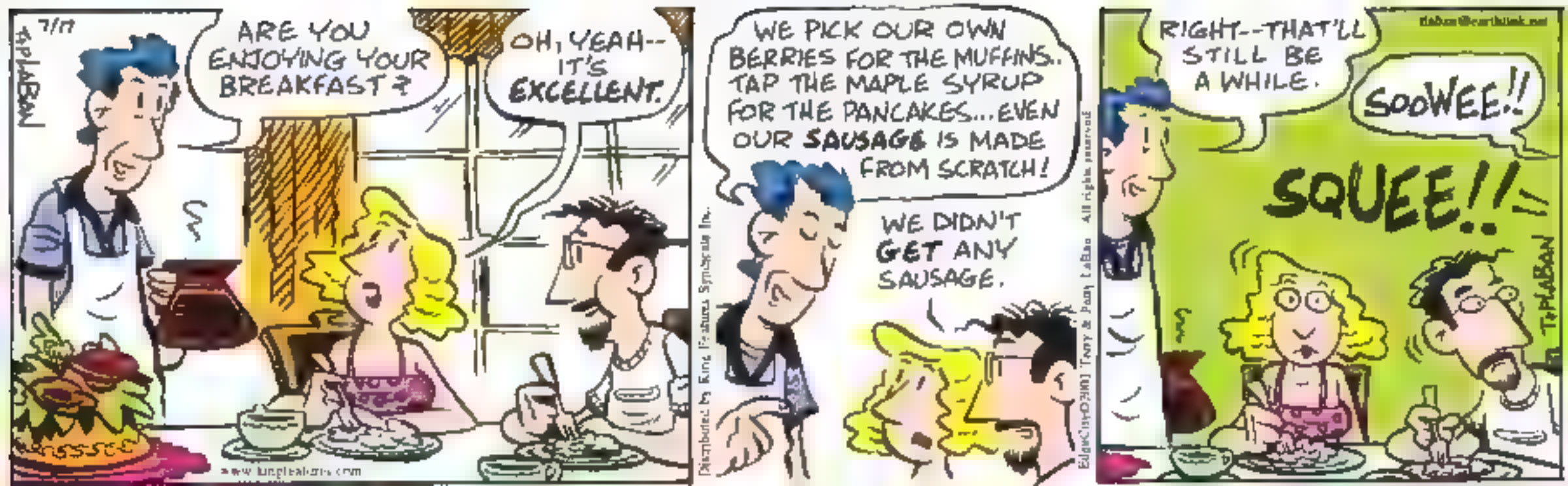
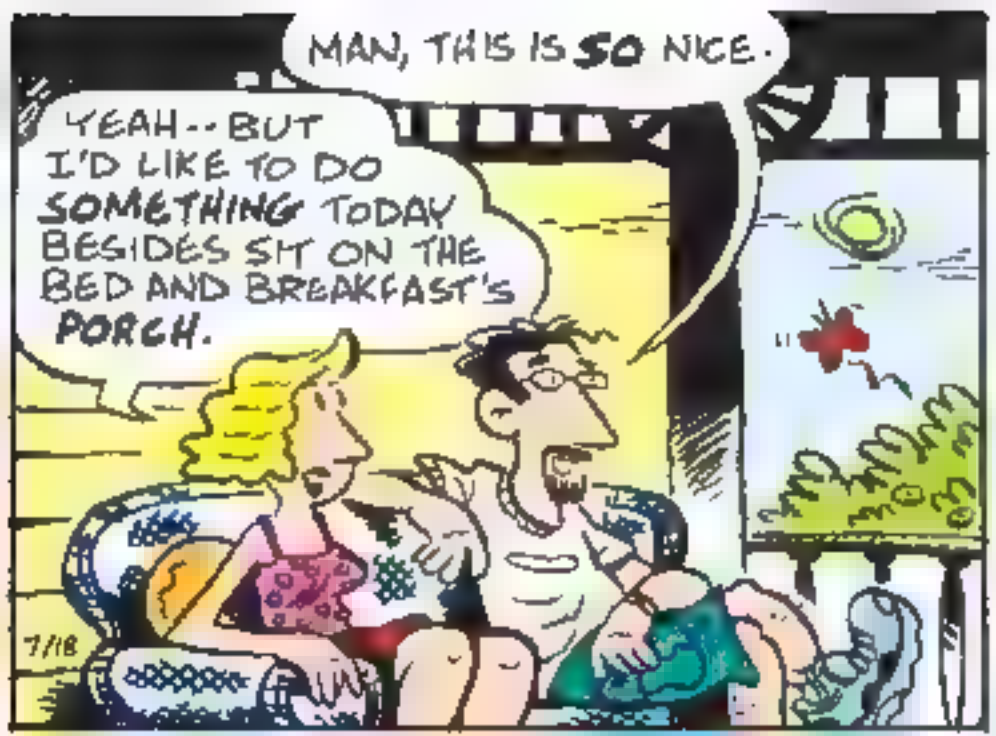
I THINK ALL THIS STUFF IS NICE.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SHOWER BEFORE WE EAT.
7/13
OLD PHOTOS, DRIED FLOWERS... IT SETS A MOOD, YOU KNOW?
HEY, ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE DOILIES OFF THE SHOWERHEADS BEFORE YOU TURN THEM ON?
TPLABAN


SO, HERE WE ARE AT THIS NICE OLD BED AND BREAKFAST, FAR FROM OUR HUMDRUM, WORKADAY LIVES.
IT'S SO COZY AND ROMANTIC... THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THINGS THAT ARE HARD TO FIND TIME FOR AT HOME.
ZZZZ...
ZZZZ...
TIP LABRAN


ARE YOU READY TO GO DOWN TO BREAKFAST?
I'M READY TO GO DOWN AND EAT BREAKFAST.
I'M NOT READY TO TRY TO MAKE CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH A BUNCH OF STRANGERS BEFORE I'VE EVEN HAD MY COFFEE.
DON'T TALK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. THE OTHER GUESTS WON'T MIND.
7/16
IS YOUR KID SMART? OUR KID IS REALLY SMART!
COULD YOU PLEASE PASS THE CREAM?
T+PLABAN


7/17
TOPLABAN
ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR BREAKFAST?
OH, YEAH-- IT'S EXCELLENT.
WE PICK OUR OWN BERRIES FOR THE MUFFINS. TAP THE MAPLE SYRUP FOR THE PANCAKES...EVEN OUR SAUSAGE IS MADE FROM SCRATCH!
WE DIDN'T GET ANY SAUSAGE.
RIGHT--THAT'LL STILL BE A WHILE.
SOOWEE!!
SQUEE!!
TOPLABAN


MAN, THIS IS SO NICE.
YEAH -- BUT I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TODAY BESIDES SIT ON THE BED AND BREAKFAST'S PORCH.
7/18
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LET'S SEE -- THERE'S A SLATE MINING MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET... A MEMORIAL TO THE INVENTOR OF THE LOZENGE... A YEAR-ROUND SANTA'S VILLAGE...
VISITOR'S GUIDE

... AND THIS WEEKEND, THE NEXT TOWN OVER IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL EGG-PLANT FESTIVAL.
TELL ME AGAIN WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE PORCH.
TP/LABAN
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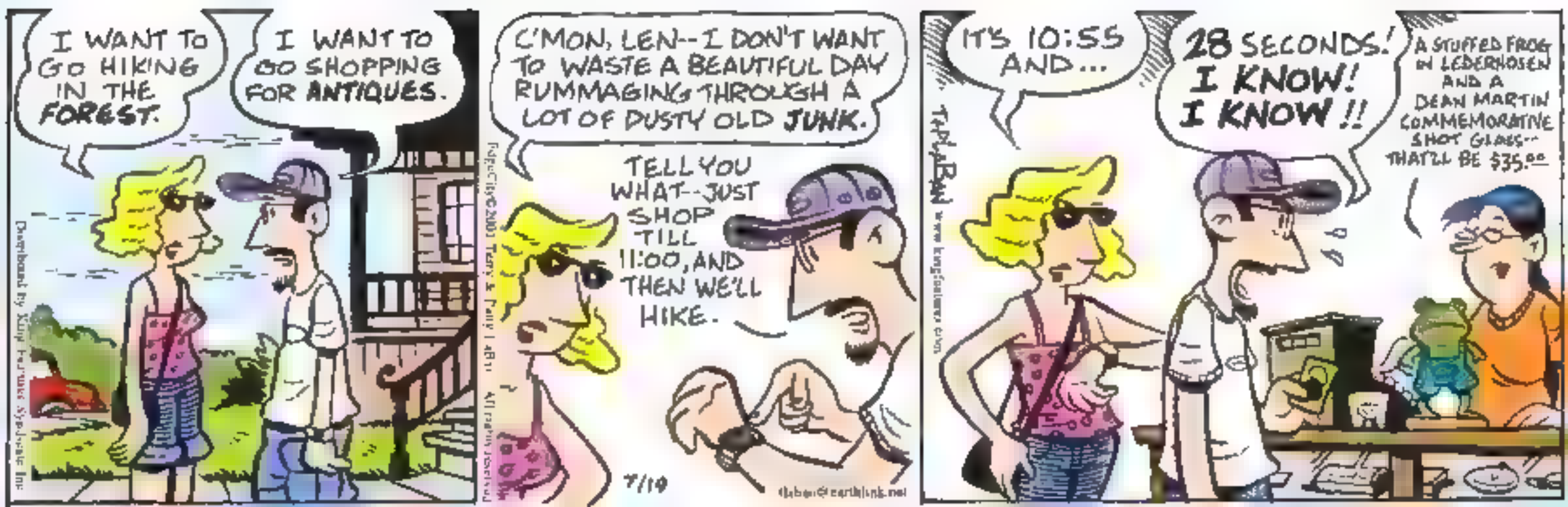
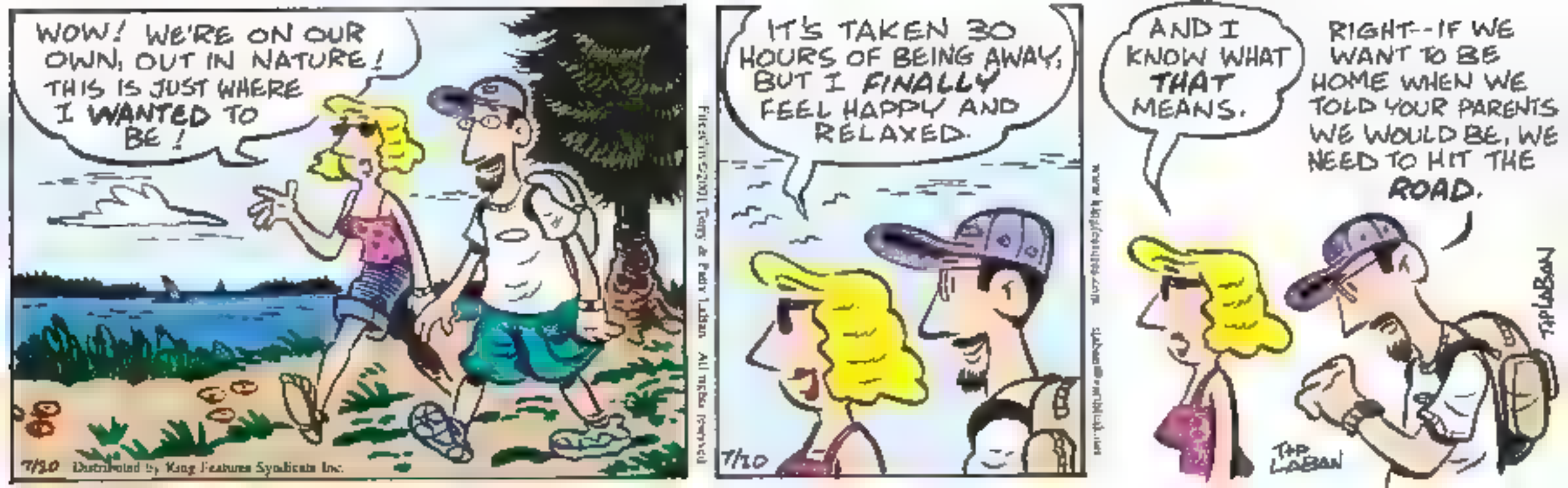

I WANT TO GO HIKING IN THE FOREST.
I WANT TO GO SHOPPING FOR ANTIQUES.
C'MON, LEN--I DON'T WANT TO WASTE A BEAUTIFUL DAY RUMMAGING THROUGH A LOT OF DUSTY OLD JUNK.
TELL YOU WHAT--JUST SHOP TILL 11:00, AND THEN WE'LL HIKE.
7/19
IT'S 10:55 AND...
28 SECONDS! I KNOW! I KNOW!!
A STUFFED FROG IN LEDERHOSEN AND A DEAN MARTIN COMMEMORATIVE SHOT GLASS--THAT'LL BE $35.00


WOW! WE'RE ON OUR OWN, OUT IN NATURE! THIS IS JUST WHERE I WANTED TO BE!
7/20
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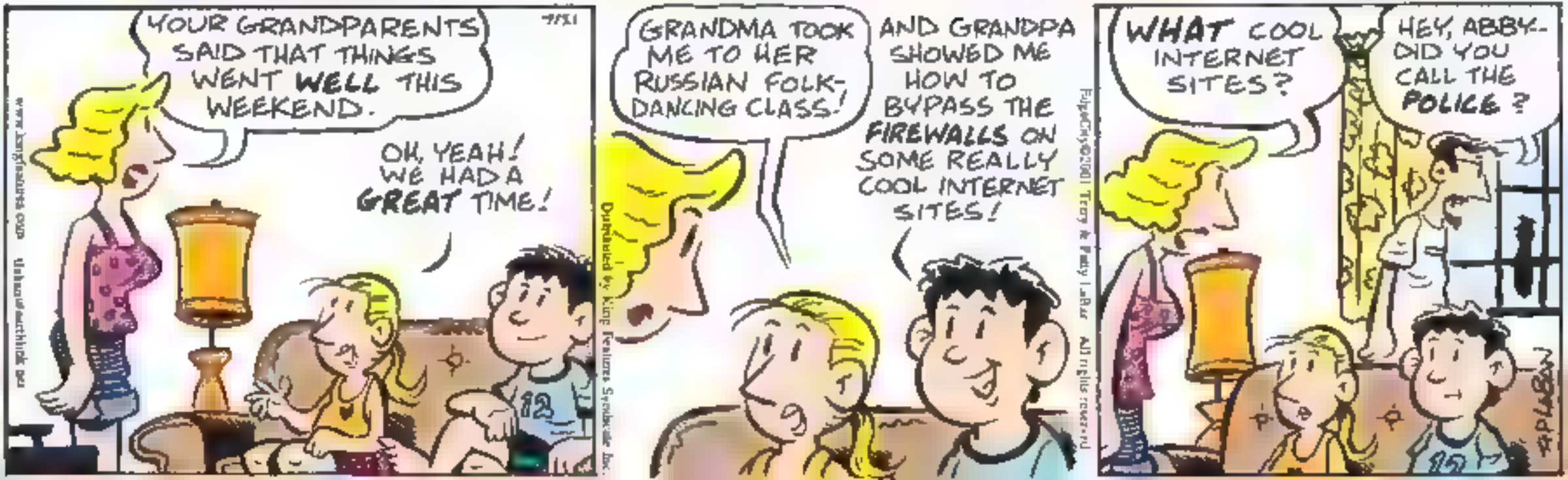
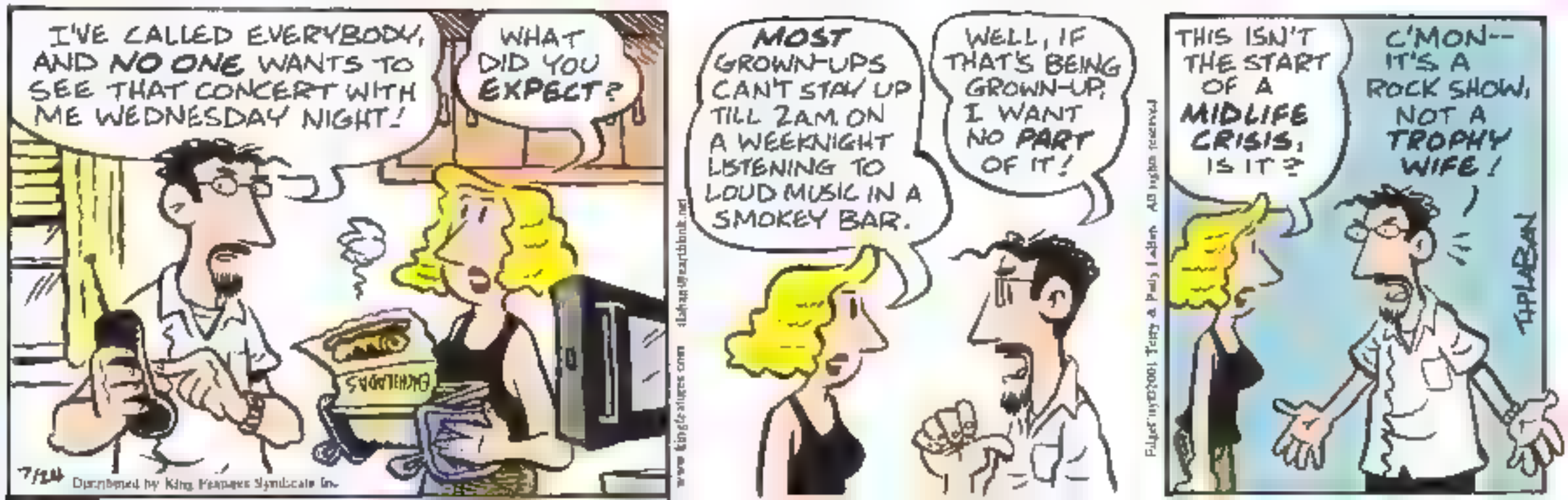
IT'S TAKEN 30 HOURS OF BEING AWAY, BUT I FINALLY FEEL HAPPY AND RELAXED.
7/20
AND I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
RIGHT--IF WE WANT TO BE HOME WHEN WE TOLD YOUR PARENTS WE WOULD BE, WE NEED TO HIT THE ROAD.
TAP LABAN


YOUR GRANDPARENTS SAID THAT THINGS WENT WELL THIS WEEKEND.
OH, YEAH! WE HAD A GREAT TIME!
GRANDMA TOOK ME TO HER RUSSIAN FOLK-DANCING CLASS!
AND GRANDPA SHOWED ME HOW TO BYPASS THE FIREWALLS ON SOME REALLY COOL INTERNET SITES!
WHAT COOL INTERNET SITES?
HEY, ABBY-- DID YOU CALL THE POLICE?

COOL! I JUST WON TICKETS FROM THE COLLEGE RADIO STATION TO SEE THE HAIRBALLS WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
THE HAIRBALLS, HUH? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM.
NO? I GUESS YOU DON'T LISTEN MUCH TO COLLEGE RADIO.
I'M NOT IN COLLEGE. WHY WOULD I?
7/23
BECAUSE IT'S A GREAT WAY TO KEEP UP WITH NEW MUSIC.
T+P LABAN
YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP LISTENING TO NOTHING BUT OLD BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ALBUMS, DO YOU?
UH, OH-- THAT'S BAD, HUH?


I'VE CALLED EVERYBODY, AND NO ONE WANTS TO SEE THAT CONCERT WITH ME WEDNESDAY NIGHT!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
7/24
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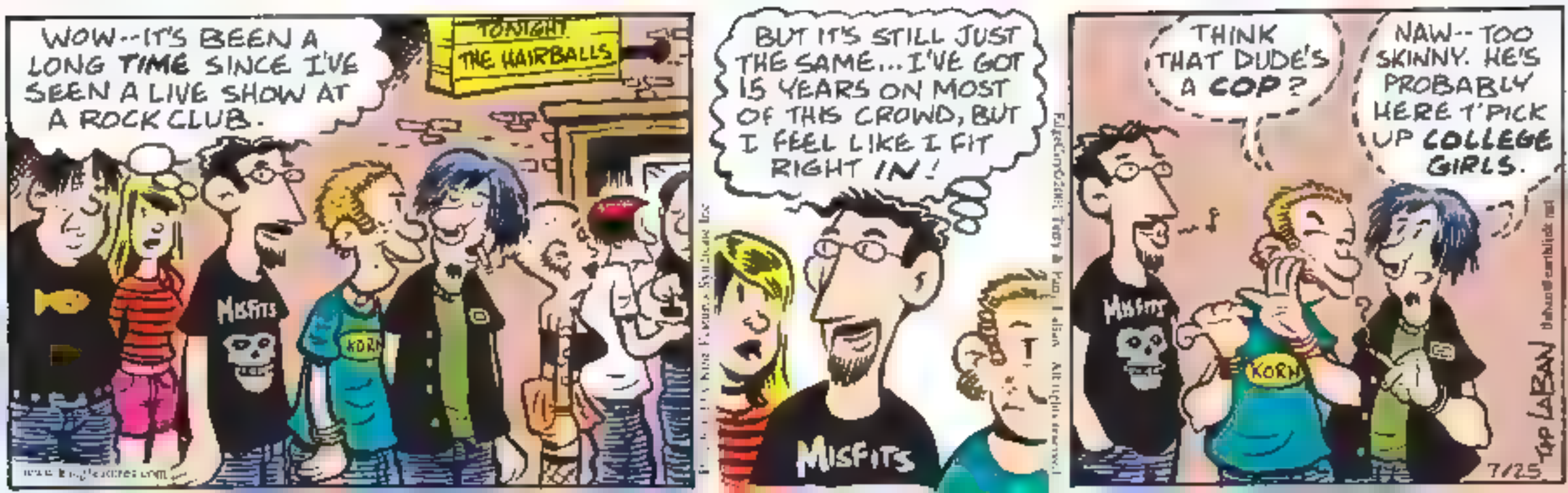
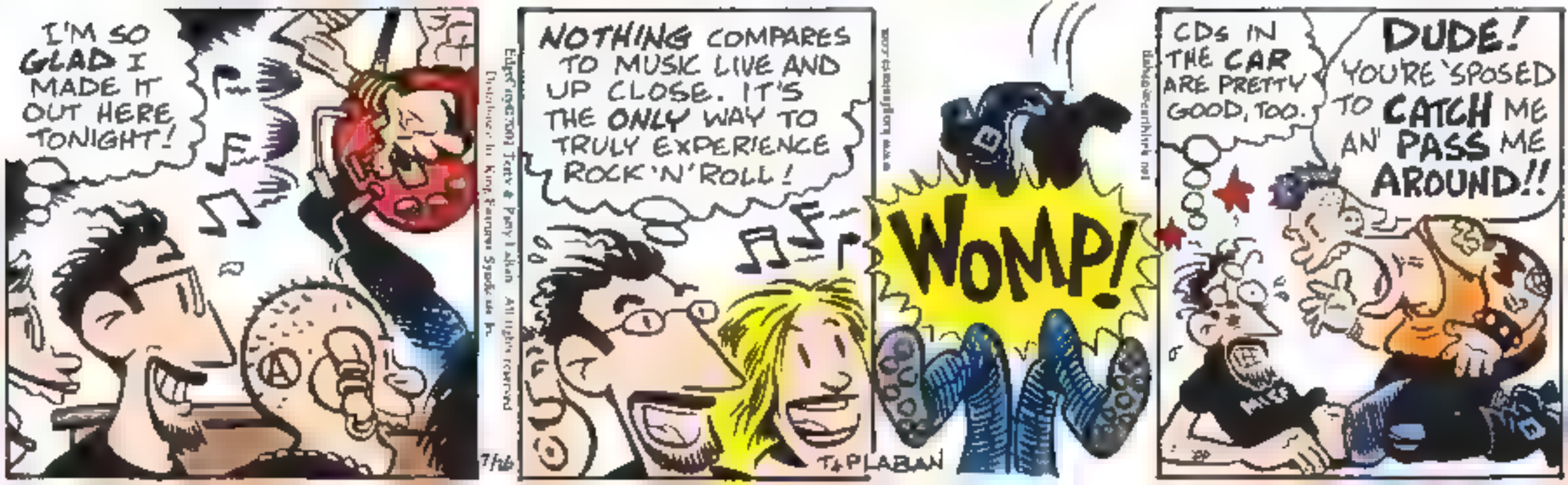
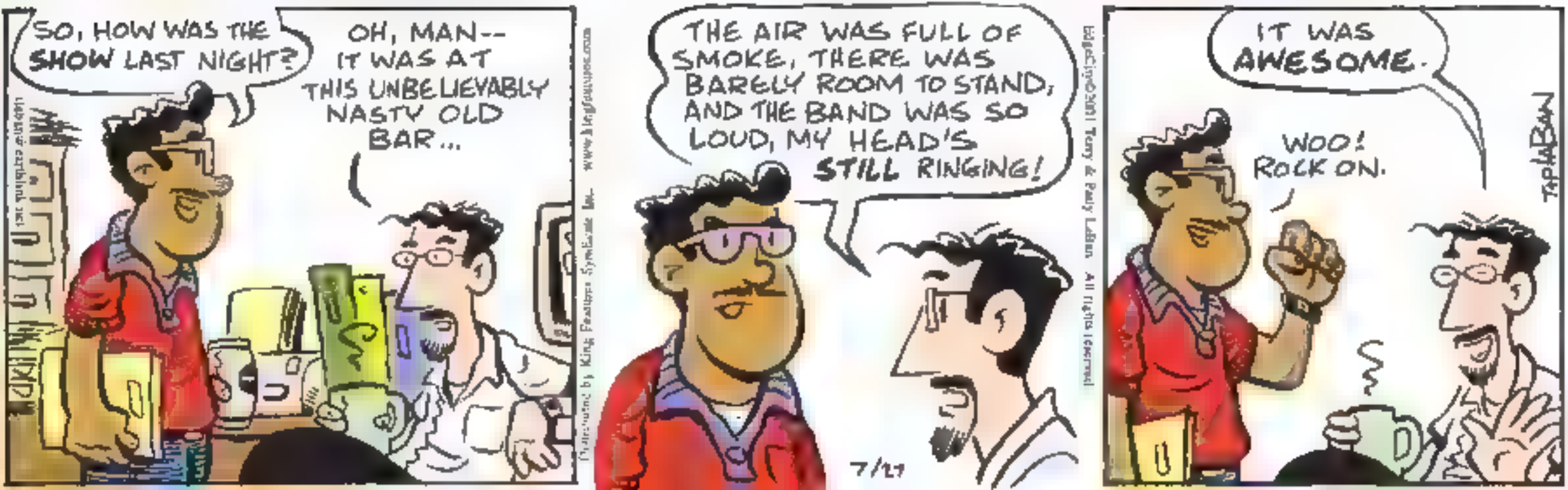
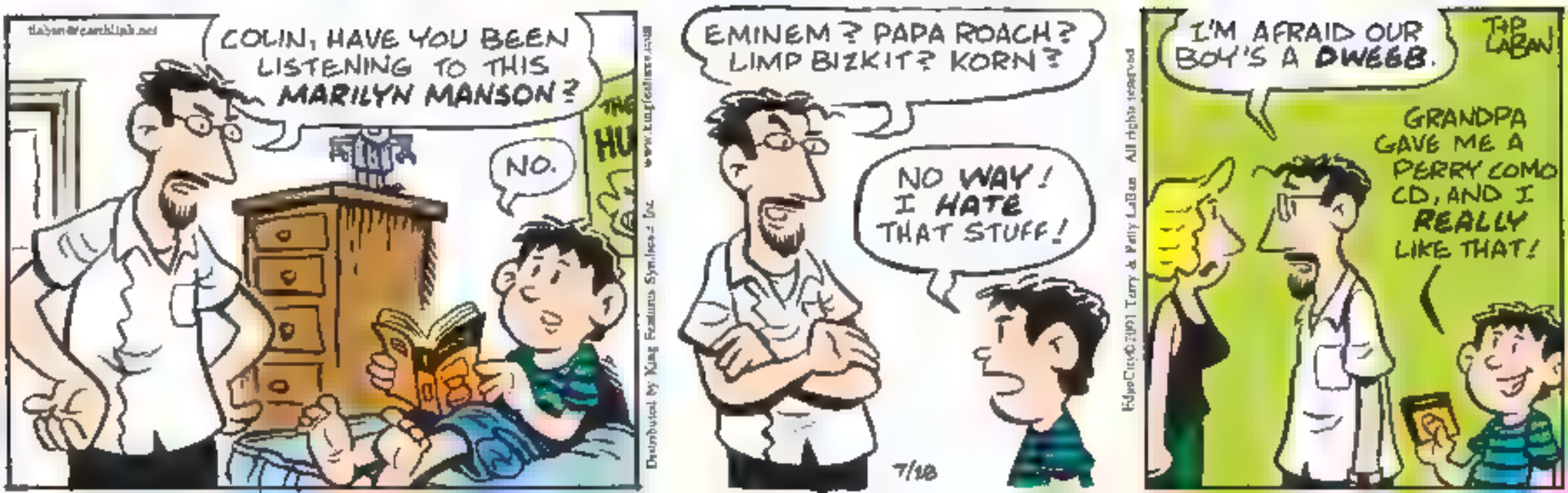
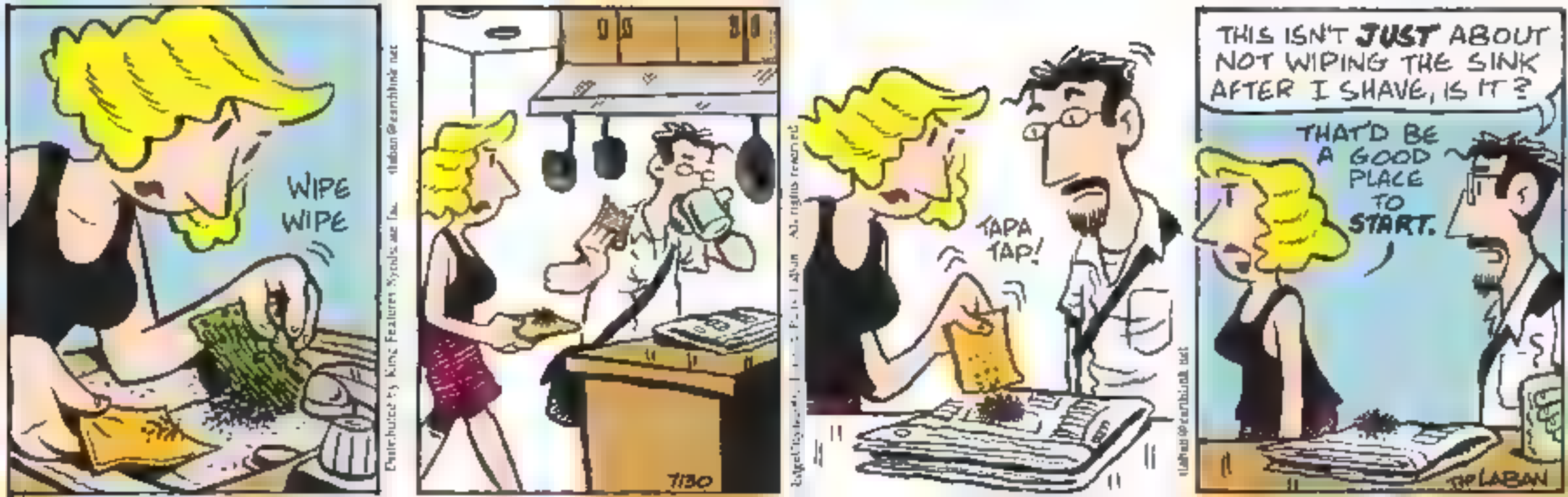
MOST GROWN-UPS CAN'T STAY UP TILL 2AM ON A WEEKNIGHT LISTENING TO LOUD MUSIC IN A SMOKEY BAR.
WELL, IF THAT'S BEING GROWN-UP, I WANT NO PART OF IT!
THIS ISN'T THE START OF A MIDLIFE CRISIS, IS IT?
C'MON-- IT'S A ROCK SHOW, NOT A TROPHY WIFE!
TAPLABAN

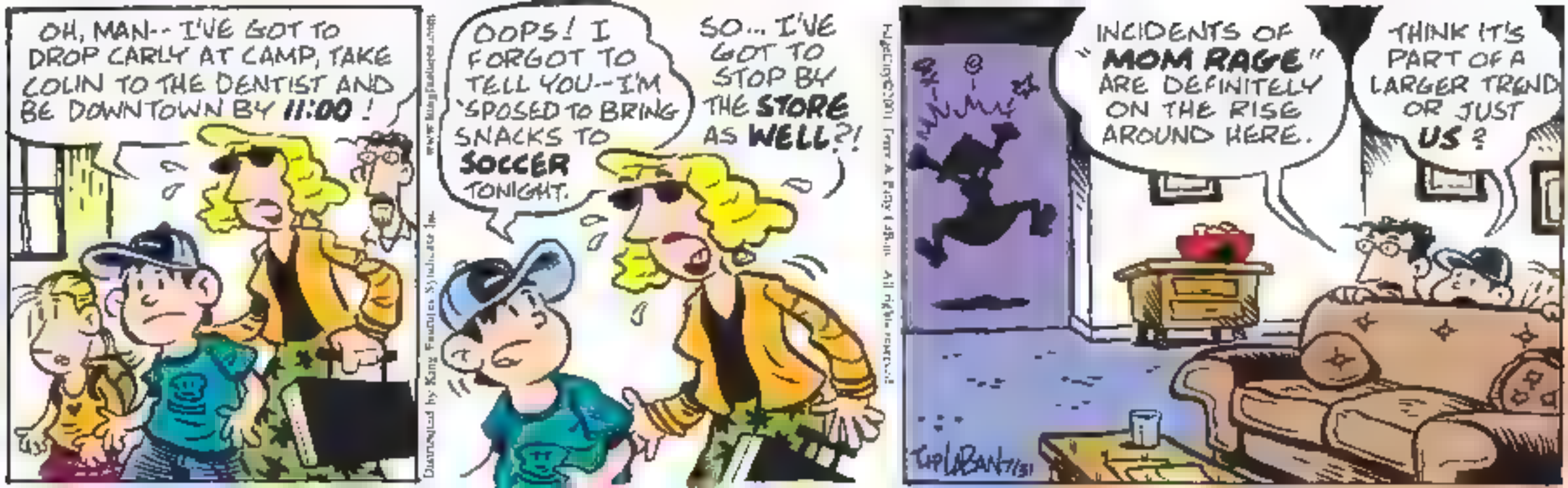

WOW--IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN A LIVE SHOW AT A ROCK CLUB.
TONIGHT THE HAIRBALLS
MISFITS
KORN
BUT IT'S STILL JUST THE SAME... I'VE GOT 15 YEARS ON MOST OF THIS CROWD, BUT I FEEL LIKE I FIT RIGHT IN!
MISFITS
THINK THAT DUDE'S A COP?
NAW-- TOO SKINNY. HE'S PROBABLY HERE T'PICK UP COLLEGE GIRLS.
MISFITS
KORN
TOM LABAN
7/25

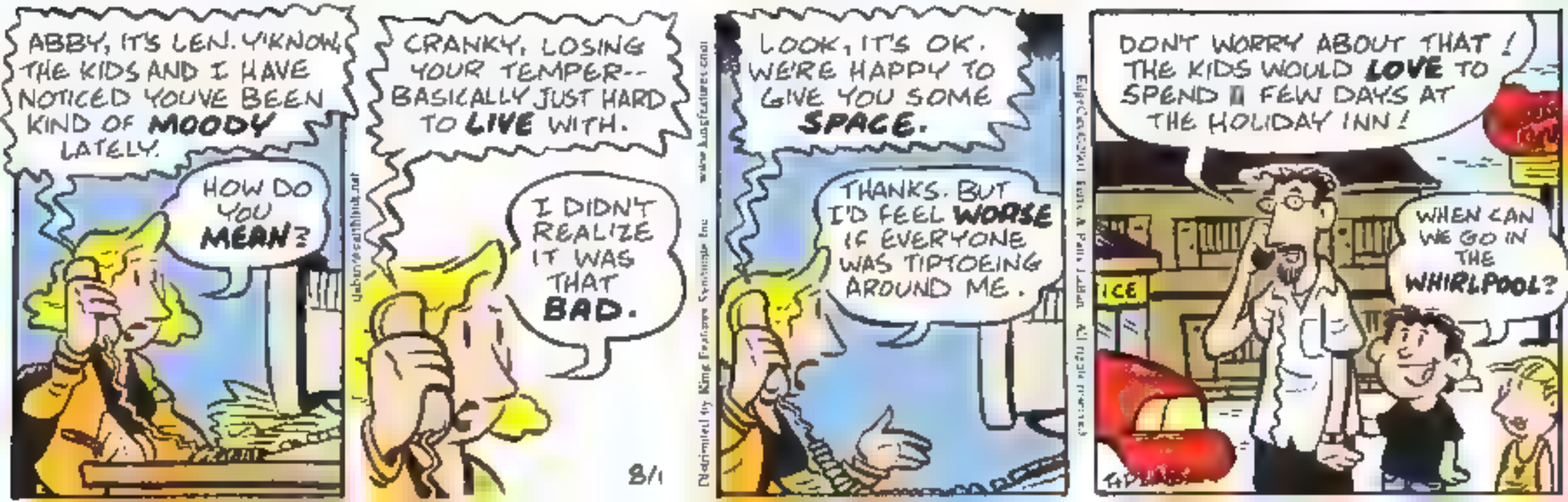

I'M SO GLAD I MADE IT OUT HERE TONIGHT!
NOTHING COMPARES TO MUSIC LIVE AND UP CLOSE. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY EXPERIENCE ROCK 'N' ROLL!
WOMP!
T4PLABAN
CDs IN THE CAR ARE PRETTY GOOD, TOO.
DUDE! YOU'RE 'SPOSED TO CATCH ME AN' PASS ME AROUND!!

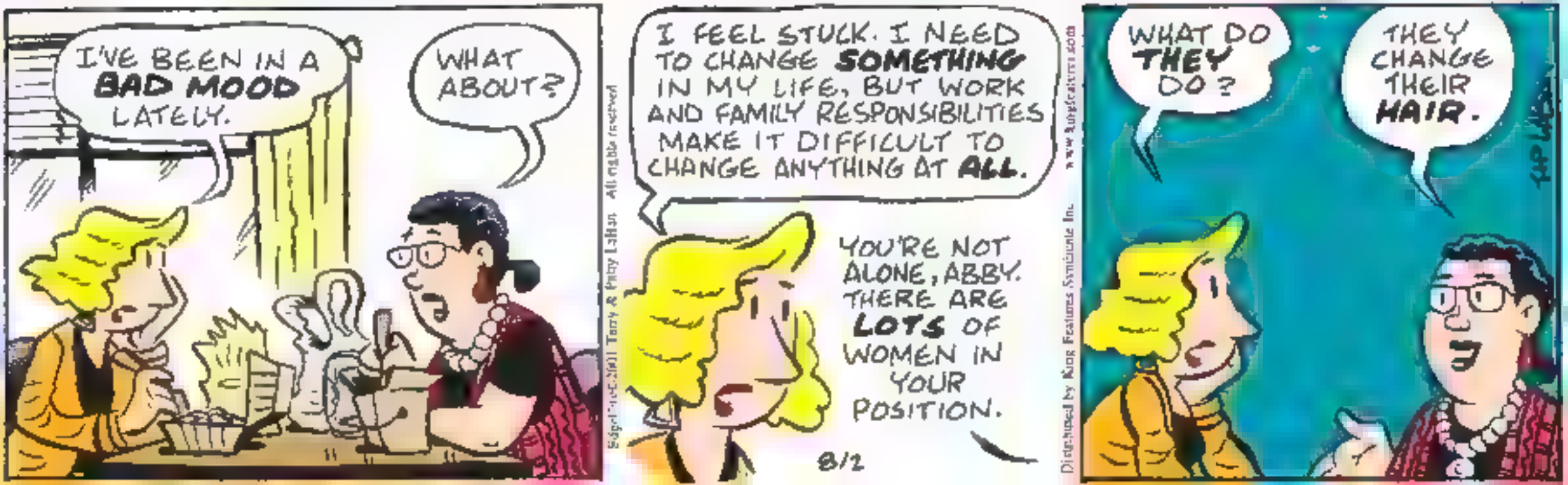

SO, HOW WAS THE SHOW LAST NIGHT?
OH, MAN-- IT WAS AT THIS UNBELIEVABLY NASTY OLD BAR...
THE AIR WAS FULL OF SMOKE, THERE WAS BARELY ROOM TO STAND, AND THE BAND WAS SO LOUD, MY HEAD'S STILL RINGING!
7/27
IT WAS AWESOME.
WOO! ROCK ON.


COLIN, HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO THIS MARILYN MANSON?
NO.
EMINEM? PAPA ROACH? LIMP BIZKIT? KORN?
NO WAY! I HATE THAT STUFF!
7/18
I'M AFRAID OUR BOY'S A DWEEB.
TOP LABAN
GRANDPA GAVE ME A PERRY COMO CD, AND I REALLY LIKE THAT!


WIPE WIPE
TAPA TAP!
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT NOT WIPING THE SINK AFTER I SHAVE, IS IT?
THAT'D BE A GOOD PLACE TO START.
TOM LABAN


OH, MAN-- I'VE GOT TO DROP CARLY AT CAMP, TAKE COLIN TO THE DENTIST AND BE DOWNTOWN BY 11:00 !
OOPS! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU--I'M 'SPOSED TO BRING SNACKS TO SOCCER TONIGHT.
SO... I'VE GOT TO STOP BY THE STORE AS WELL?!
INCIDENTS OF "MOM RAGE" ARE DEFINITELY ON THE RISE AROUND HERE.
THINK IT'S PART OF A LARGER TREND OR JUST US ?
TUPLABANT/31

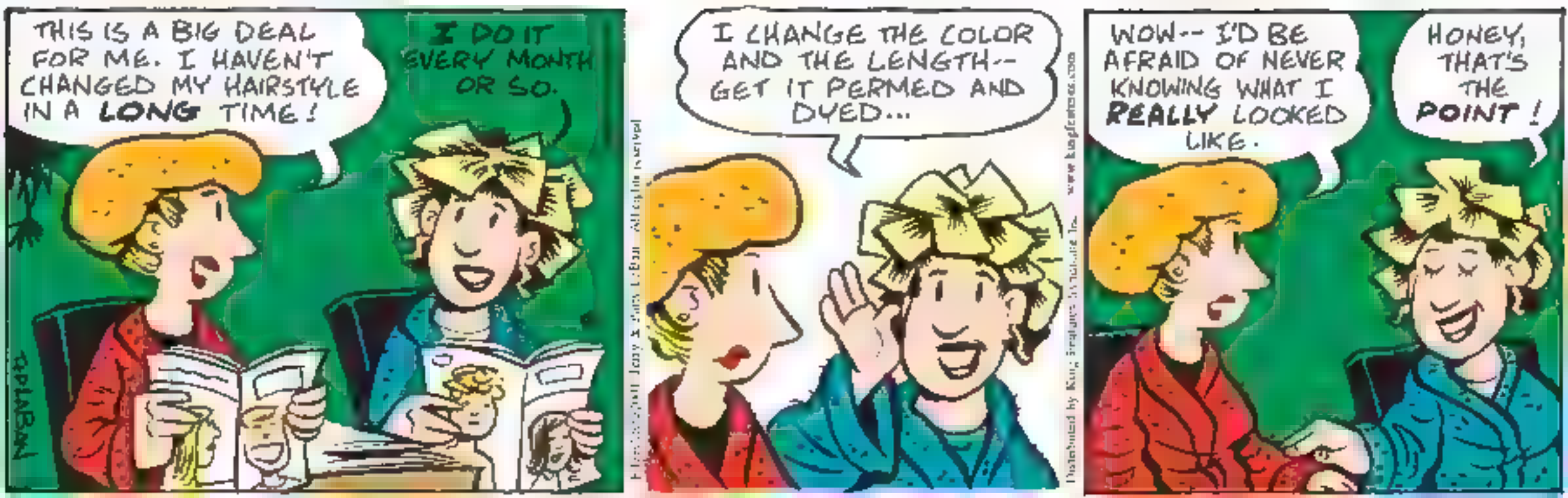

ABBY, IT'S LEN. Y'KNOW, THE KIDS AND I HAVE NOTICED YOUVE BEEN KIND OF MOODY LATELY.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
CRANKY, LOSING YOUR TEMPER-- BASICALLY JUST HARD TO LIVE WITH.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THAT BAD.
8/1
LOOK, IT'S OK. WE'RE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU SOME SPACE.
THANKS. BUT I'D FEEL WORSE IF EVERYONE WAS TIPTOEING AROUND ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! THE KIDS WOULD LOVE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS AT THE HOLIDAY INN!
ICE
WHEN CAN WE GO IN THE WHIRLPOOL?


I'VE BEEN IN A BAD MOOD LATELY.
WHAT ABOUT?
I FEEL STUCK. I NEED TO CHANGE SOMETHING IN MY LIFE, BUT WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO CHANGE ANYTHING AT ALL.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, ABBY. THERE ARE LOTS OF WOMEN IN YOUR POSITION.
8/2
WHAT DO THEY DO?
THEY CHANGE THEIR HAIR.

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GET A NEW HAIRSTYLE ?
8/3
PEOPLE ARE USED TO ME LOOKING A CERTAIN WAY. IT COULD REALLY UPSET MY FAMILY... OR MY CLIENTS!
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT, ABBY.
IT'S MORE LIKELY HARDLY ANYONE WILL NOTICE.
THAT'D BE EVEN WORSE!

WOW, THIS IS GREAT! I SHOULD'VE CHANGED MY HAIRSTYLE A LONG TIME AGO.
SALON STYLE
THERE ARE SO MANY POSSIBILITIES! I COULD LOOK LIKE A FEMME FATALE, A DEBUTANTE, AN URBAN SOPHISTICATE...
8/4
...OR A TOTAL DORK.
YOU LOOK BEE-YOO-TIFUL!
TAPLABAN

SO--WHAT STYLE WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
I WANT SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT! SOMETHING NEW AND RADICAL!
WONDERFUL! WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST IS GOING VERY SHORT.
SHORT?
NOT SHORT! I DON'T WANT SHORT!
TELL YOU WHAT-- WE'LL START WITH SOME HIGHLIGHTS...
TIPLABAN


THIS IS A BIG DEAL FOR ME. I HAVEN'T CHANGED MY HAIRSTYLE IN A LONG TIME!
I DO IT EVERY MONTH OR SO.
I CHANGE THE COLOR AND THE LENGTH-- GET IT PERMED AND DYED...
WOW-- I'D BE AFRAID OF NEVER KNOWING WHAT I REALLY LOOKED LIKE.
HONEY, THAT'S THE POINT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ABBY?
WOW! IT LOOKS GREAT!
8/8
I JUST HOPE IT WON'T BE A TON OF WORK TO MAINTAIN!
WE'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF BEAUTY PRODUCTS!
DON'T WORRY... SOMEONE WILL HELP YOU CARRY THEM TO YOUR CAR.
TERRY LABAN

YOUR NEW HAIRSTYLE LOOKS **GREAT**, ABBY! DO **YOU** LIKE IT?

YEAH. BUT IT'S TAKING SOME GETTING **USED** TO.

8/9

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WELL, YOU SAID YOU WANTED A **CHANGE**.

AND I GOT IT. BEFORE, I FELT STRESSED OUT BECAUSE OF ALL THE THINGS I HAD TO **DO**.

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AND NOW?

NOW, ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, I HAVE TO SPEND AN EXTRA **HOUR** ON MY HAIR.

TRP LABAN

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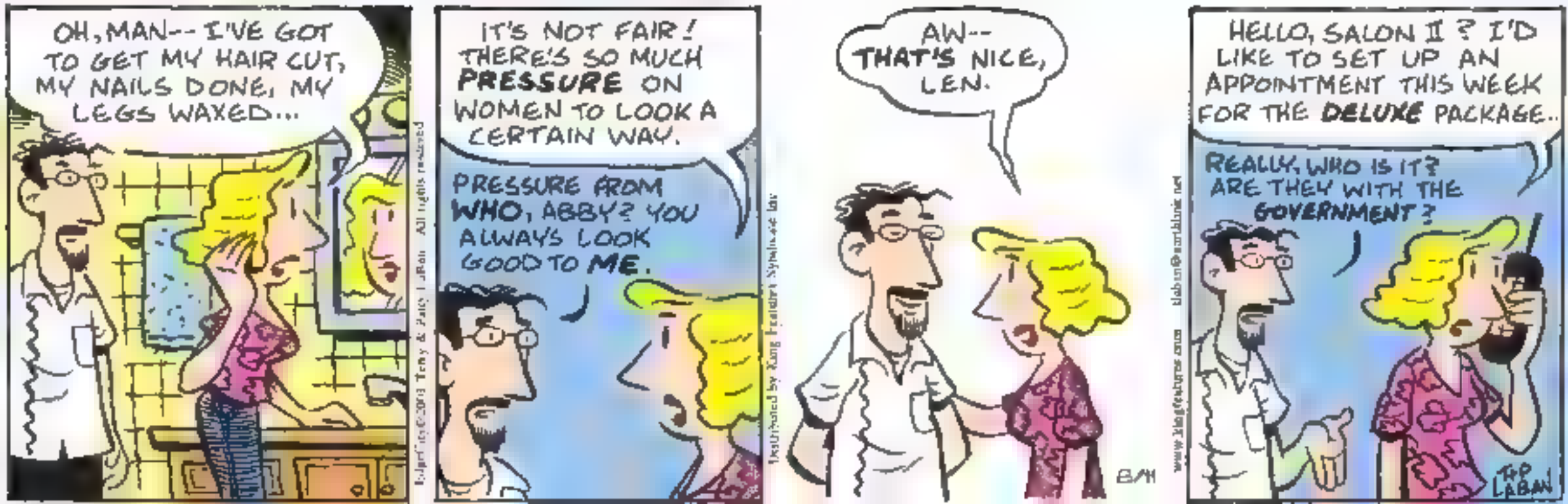
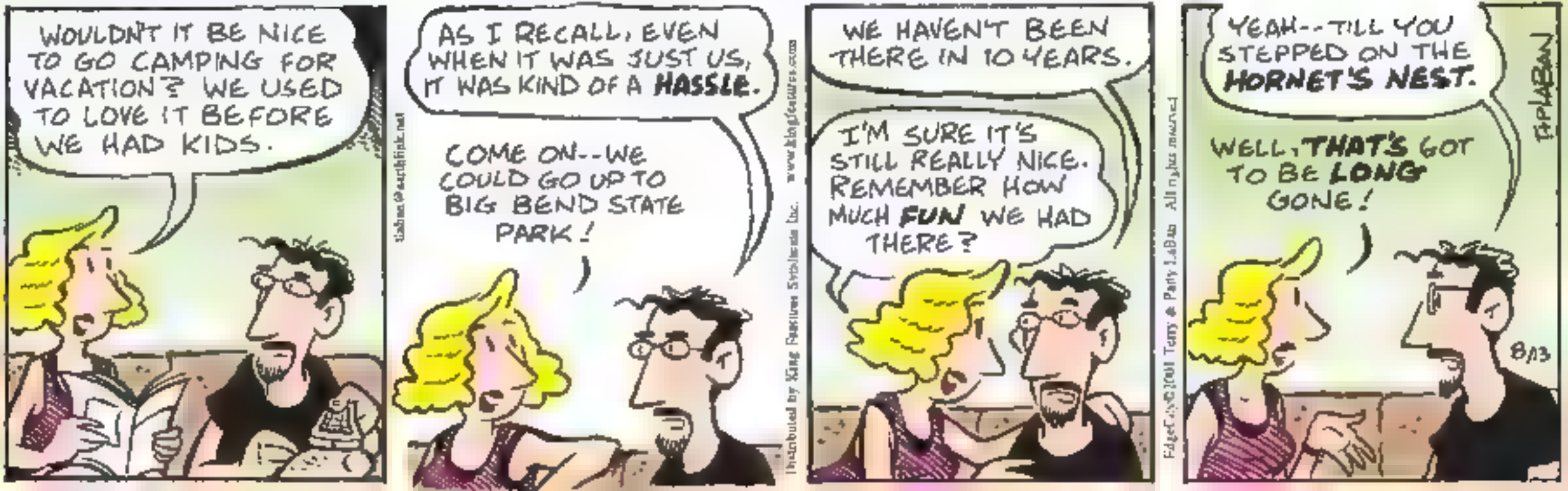
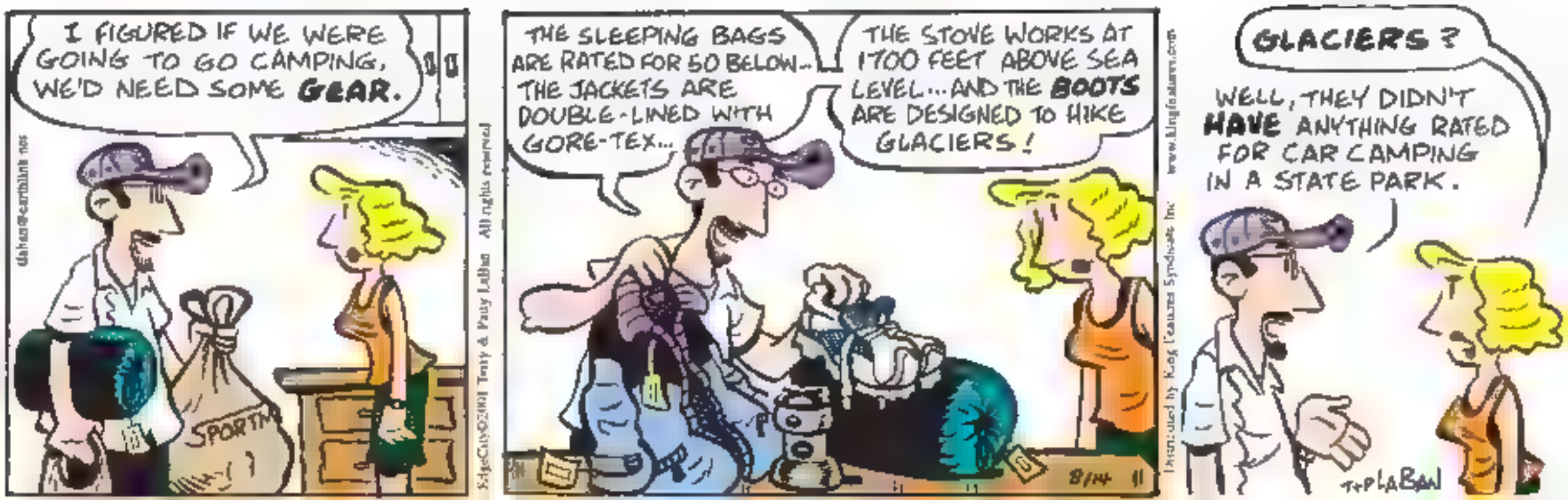
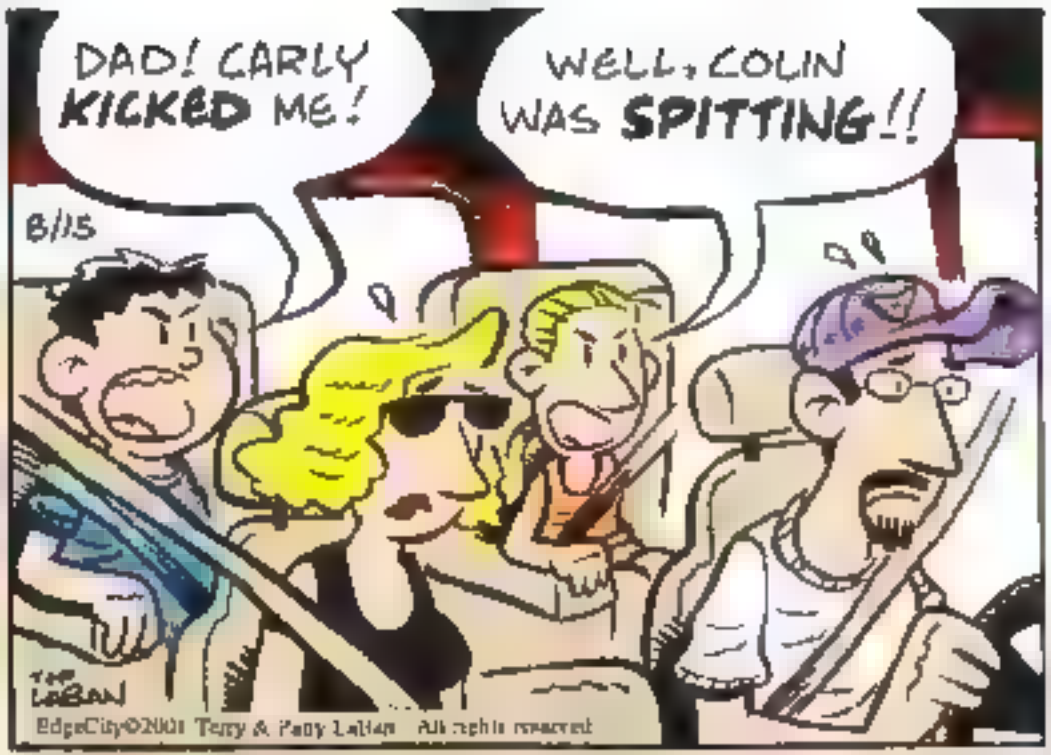
SIGH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FANCY NEW HAIRDO?
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO MAINTAIN IT!
SO, AFTER ALL THAT TIME AT THE SALON, YOU BASICALLY HAVE THE SAME HAIRSTYLE AS BEFORE?
WELL, THERE'S DEFINITELY BEEN VALUE ADDED.
BAO
TAP LABAN


OH, MAN-- I'VE GOT TO GET MY HAIR CUT, MY NAILS DONE, MY LEGS WAXED...
IT'S NOT FAIR! THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE ON WOMEN TO LOOK A CERTAIN WAY.
PRESSURE FROM WHO, ABBY? YOU ALWAYS LOOK GOOD TO ME.
AW-- THAT'S NICE, LEN.
BM
HELLO, SALON II ? I'D LIKE TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT THIS WEEK FOR THE DELUXE PACKAGE..
REALLY, WHO IS IT? ARE THEY WITH THE GOVERNMENT ?
TED LABAN


WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO GO CAMPING FOR VACATION? WE USED TO LOVE IT BEFORE WE HAD KIDS.
AS I RECALL, EVEN WHEN IT WAS JUST US, IT WAS KIND OF A HASSLE.
COME ON--WE COULD GO UP TO BIG BEND STATE PARK!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN 10 YEARS.
I'M SURE IT'S STILL REALLY NICE. REMEMBER HOW MUCH FUN WE HAD THERE?
YEAH--TILL YOU STEPPED ON THE HORNET'S NEST.
WELL, THAT'S GOT TO BE LONG GONE!
8/13


I FIGURED IF WE WERE GOING TO GO CAMPING, WE'D NEED SOME GEAR.
SPORTING
THE SLEEPING BAGS ARE RATED FOR 50 BELOW... THE JACKETS ARE DOUBLE-LINED WITH GORE-TEX...
THE STOVE WORKS AT 1700 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL... AND THE BOOTS ARE DESIGNED TO HIKE GLACIERS!
8/14
GLACIERS?
WELL, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING RATED FOR CAR CAMPING IN A STATE PARK.
TPLABAN



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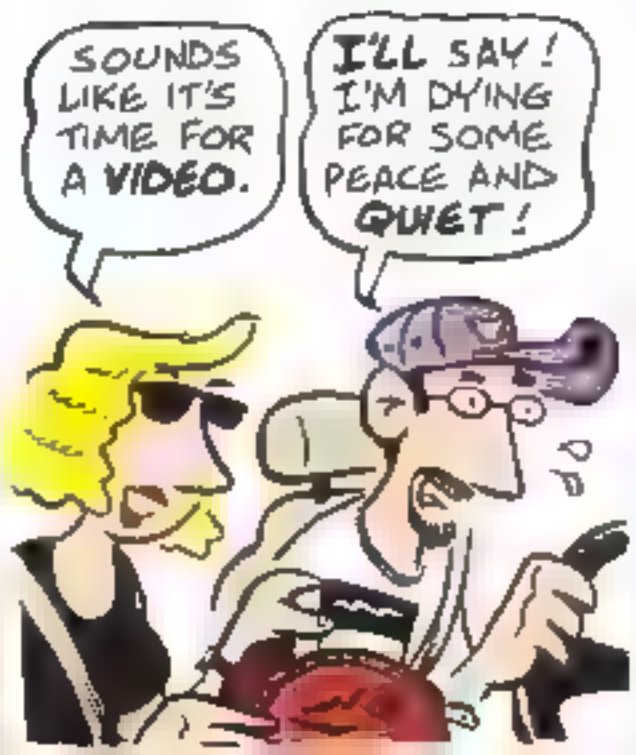

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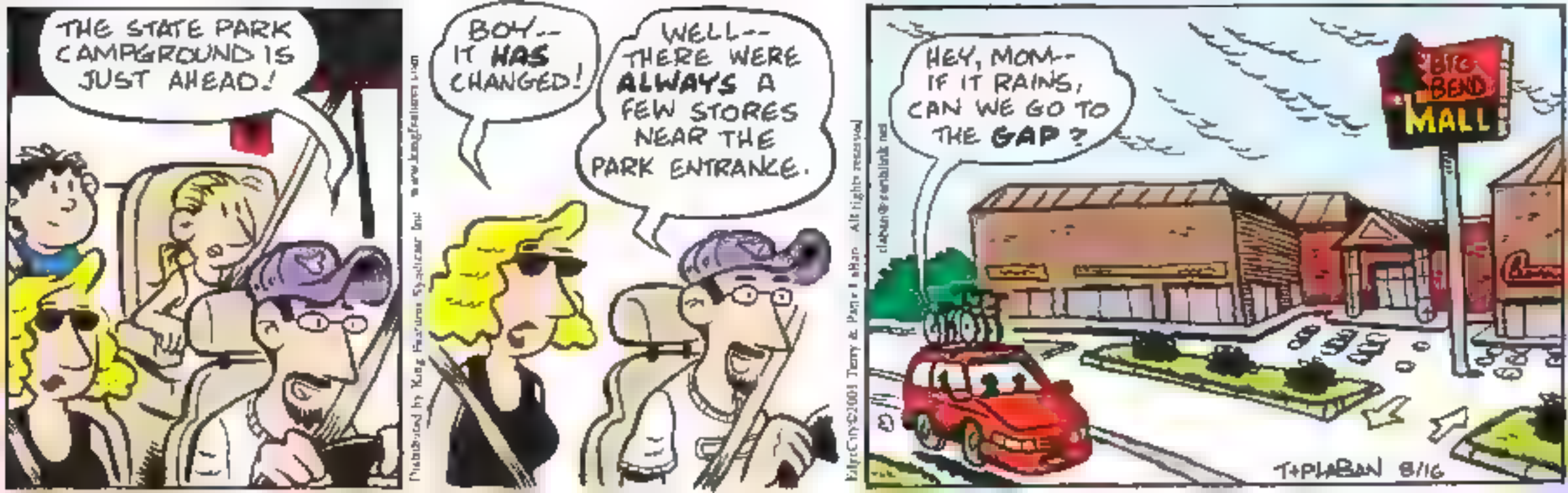
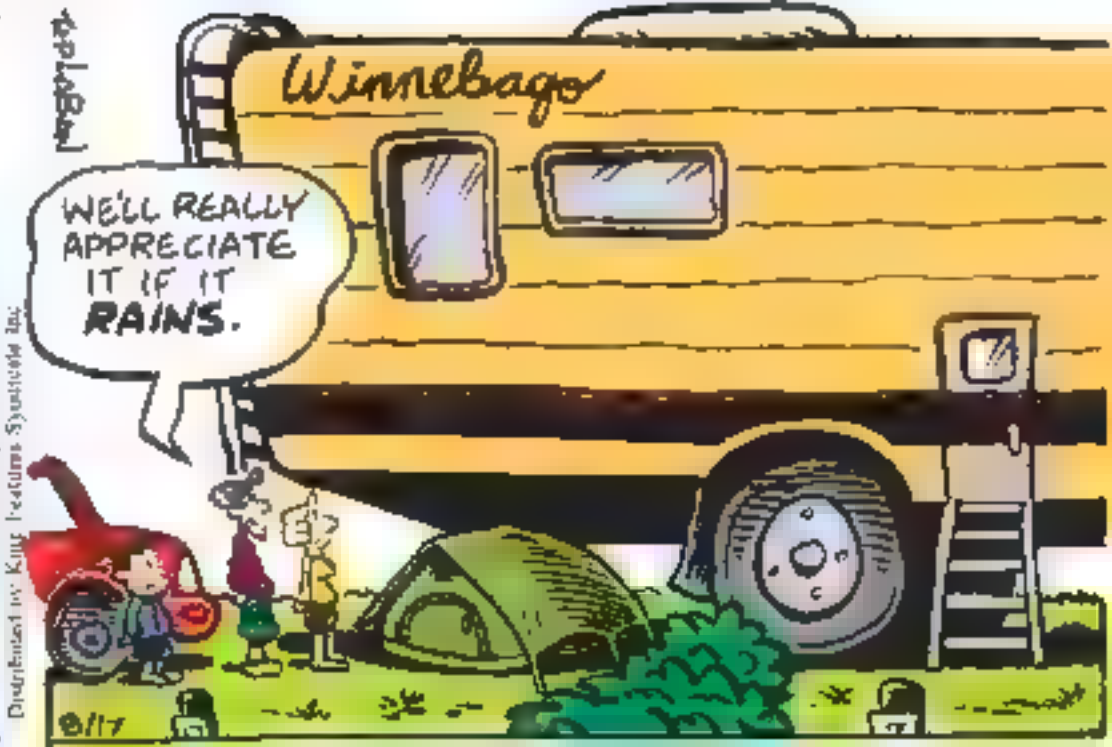
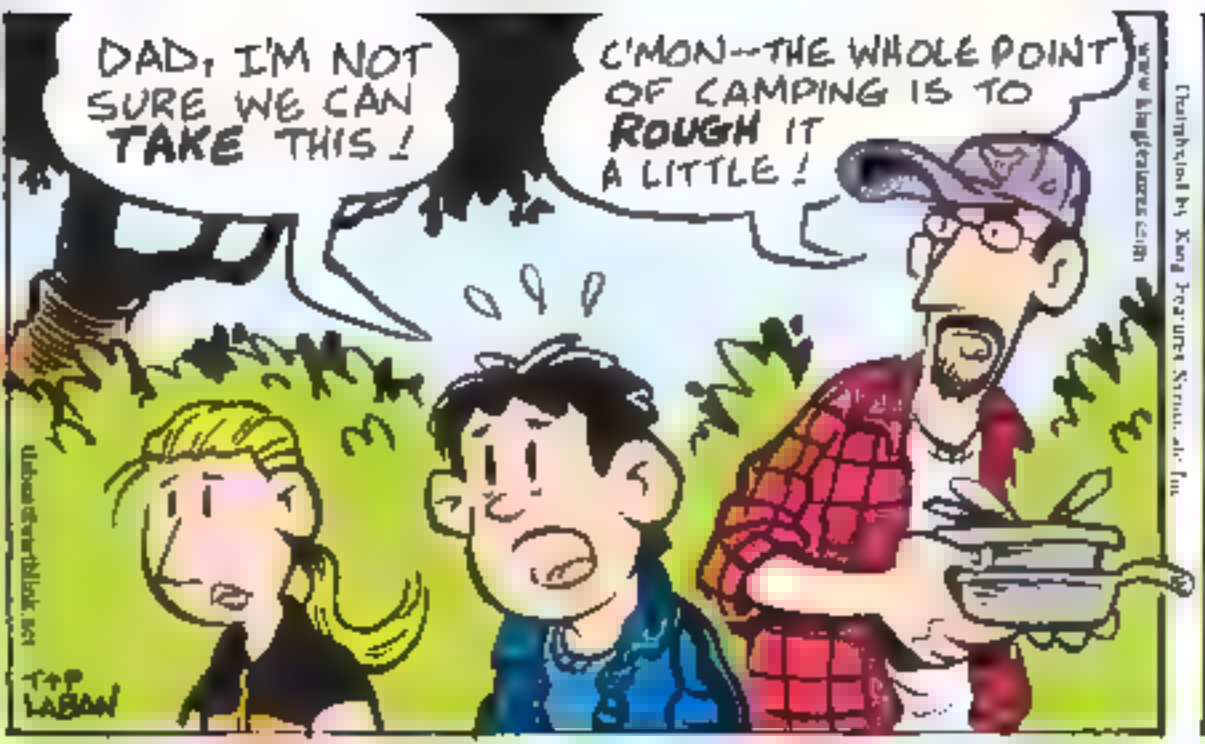
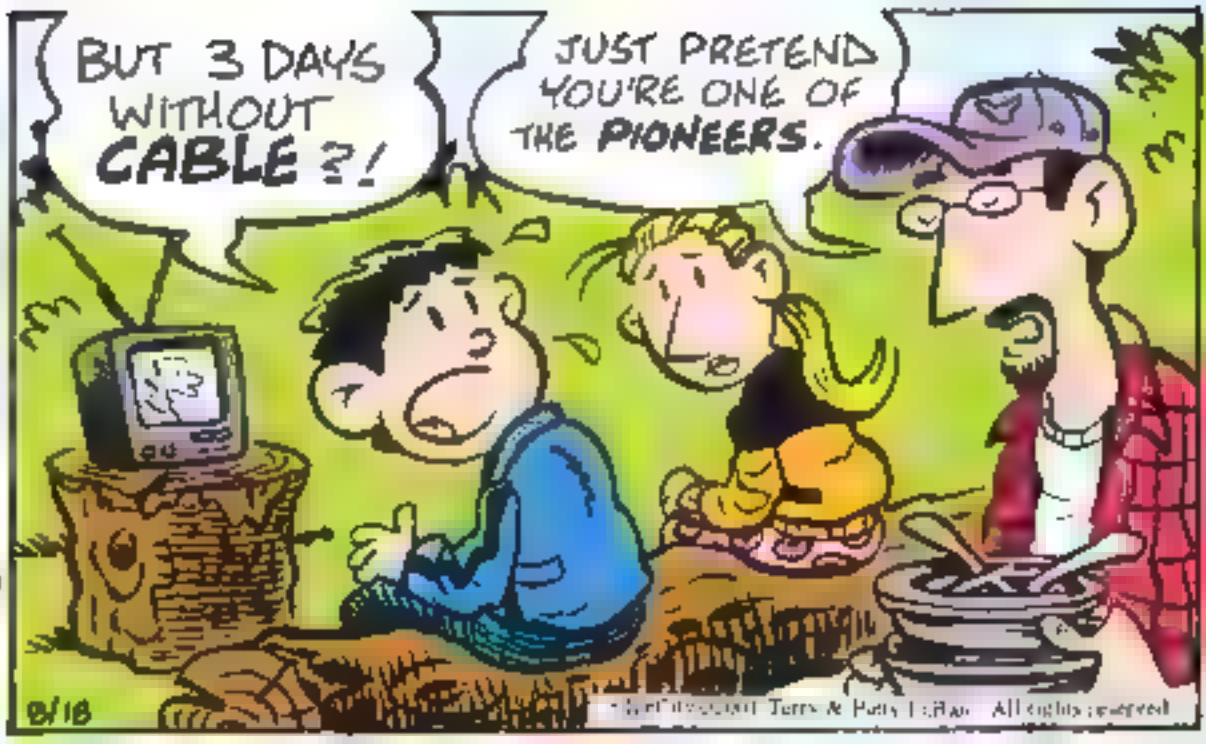

THE STATE PARK CAMPGROUND IS JUST AHEAD!
BOY-- IT HAS CHANGED!
WELL-- THERE WERE ALWAYS A FEW STORES NEAR THE PARK ENTRANCE.
HEY, MOM-- IF IT RAINS, CAN WE GO TO THE GAP?
BIG BEND MALL
T+PLABAN 8/16

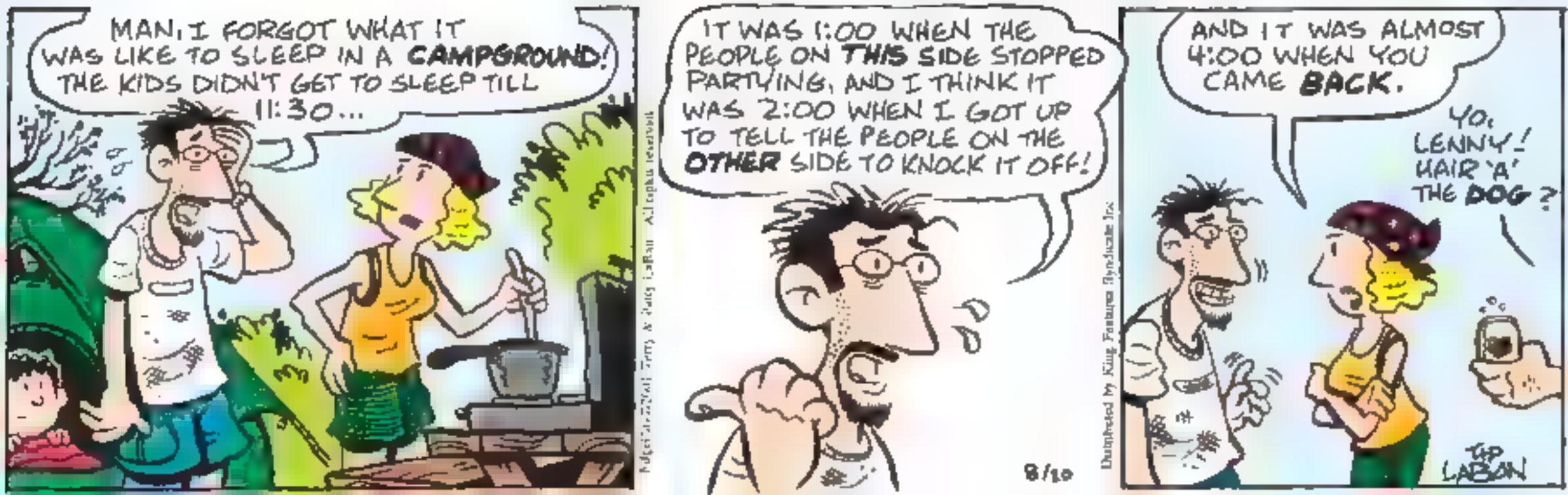
WELL, THE TENT WENT UP WITH NO PROBLEM.
YEAH--BUT I'M STILL NOT THRILLED WITH OUR CAMPSITE.

I KNOW WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A SPOT, GIVEN HOW **CROWDED** IT IS. I JUST PICTURED THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY.
AW, IT'S NOT SO **BAD**...

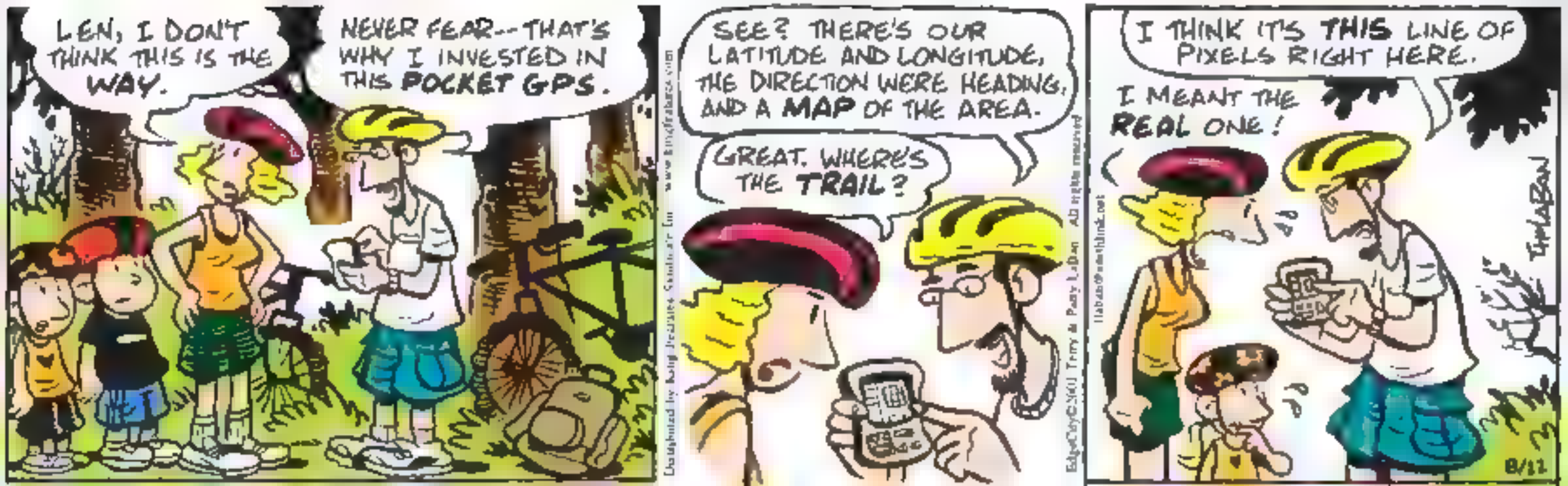

Winnebago
WE'LL REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF IT **RAINS**.

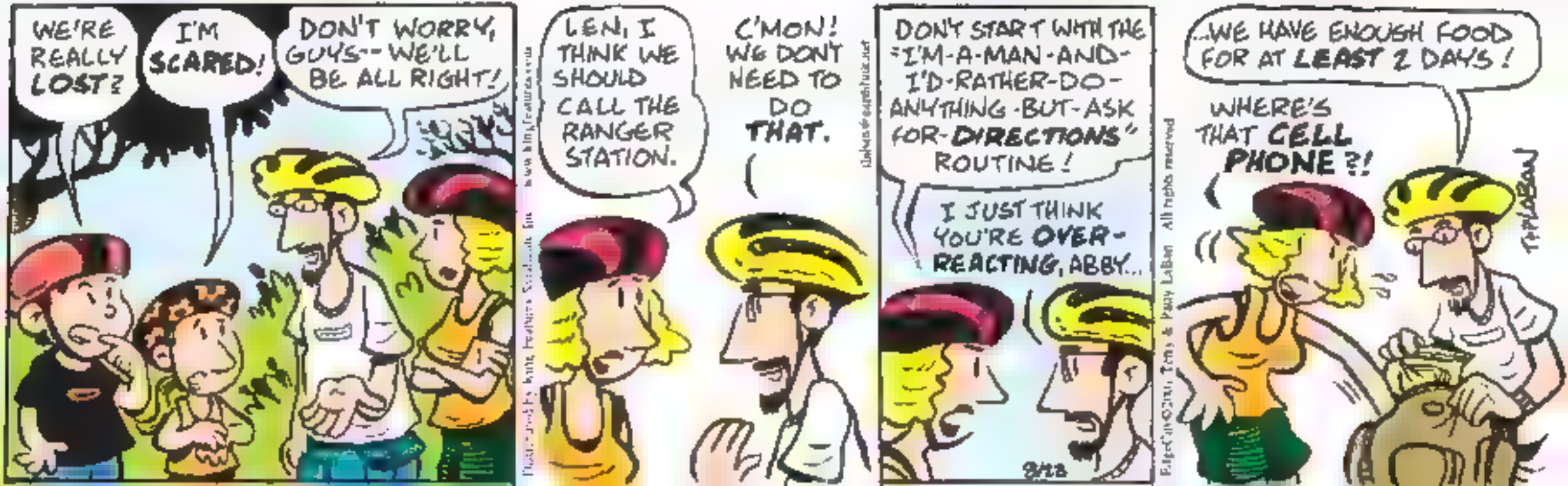

DAD, I'M NOT SURE WE CAN TAKE THIS!
C'MON--THE WHOLE POINT OF CAMPING IS TO ROUGH IT A LITTLE!
TIM LABON

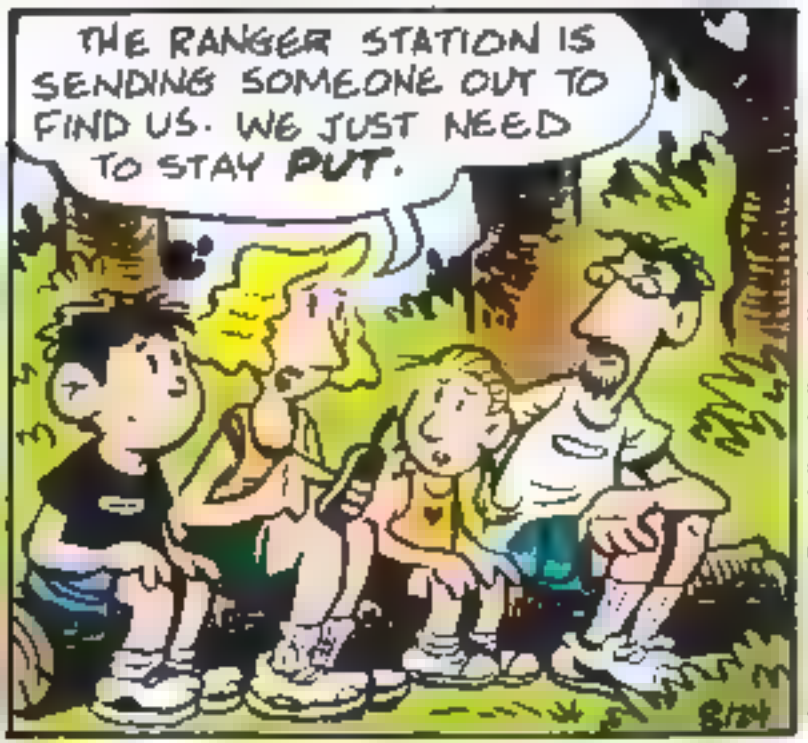

BUT 3 DAYS WITHOUT CABLE?!
JUST PRETEND YOU'RE ONE OF THE PIONEERS.
8/18


MAN, I FORGOT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO SLEEP IN A CAMPGROUND! THE KIDS DIDN'T GET TO SLEEP TILL 11:30...
IT WAS 1:00 WHEN THE PEOPLE ON THIS SIDE STOPPED PARTYING, AND I THINK IT WAS 2:00 WHEN I GOT UP TO TELL THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE TO KNOCK IT OFF!
8/10
AND IT WAS ALMOST 4:00 WHEN YOU CAME BACK.
YO, LENNY! HAIR 'A' THE DOG?
TED LABAN

TSK! CAN'T PEOPLE EVEN SPEND A FEW HOURS IN THE WOODS WITHOUT THEIR CELL PHONES?
8/21
TWEET!
AT LEAST I SCREEN MY CALLS!
TAPLABAN


LEN, I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE WAY.
NEVER FEAR--THAT'S WHY I INVESTED IN THIS POCKET GPS.
SEE? THERE'S OUR LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE, THE DIRECTION WERE HEADING, AND A MAP OF THE AREA.
GREAT. WHERE'S THE TRAIL?
I THINK IT'S THIS LINE OF PIXELS RIGHT HERE.
I MEANT THE REAL ONE!
8/12


WE'RE REALLY LOST?
I'M SCARED!
DON'T WORRY, GUYS--WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
LEN, I THINK WE SHOULD CALL THE RANGER STATION.
C'MON! WE DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.
DON'T START WITH THE "I'M-A-MAN-AND-I'D-RATHER-DO-ANYTHING-BUT-ASK FOR-DIRECTIONS" ROUTINE!
I JUST THINK YOU'RE OVER-REACTING, ABBY...
...WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR AT LEAST 2 DAYS!
WHERE'S THAT CELL PHONE?!


THE RANGER STATION IS SENDING SOMEONE OUT TO FIND US. WE JUST NEED TO STAY PUT.

I HOPE THEY FIND US SOON!
THEY WILL, HONEY. MEANWHILE, ANYONE KNOW A SONG?

THERE WAS A FARMER HAD A DOG AND BINGO WAS HIS NAME-O...

YOU FOLKS ALL RIGHT?
AW--DO WE HAFTA GO ALREADY?

ONE OF THE REASONS I WANTED TO GO CAMPING WAS SO WE COULD SPEND TIME TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.
BUT AFTER CAREFULLY PLANNING ALL SORTS OF THINGS FOR US TO DO: YOU KNOW WHAT MADE ME FEEL CLOSEST TO EVERYONE?
GETTING LOST.
WE'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER TO SCHEDULE THAT IN NEXT TIME.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS JIFFY POP.
TOM LABAN
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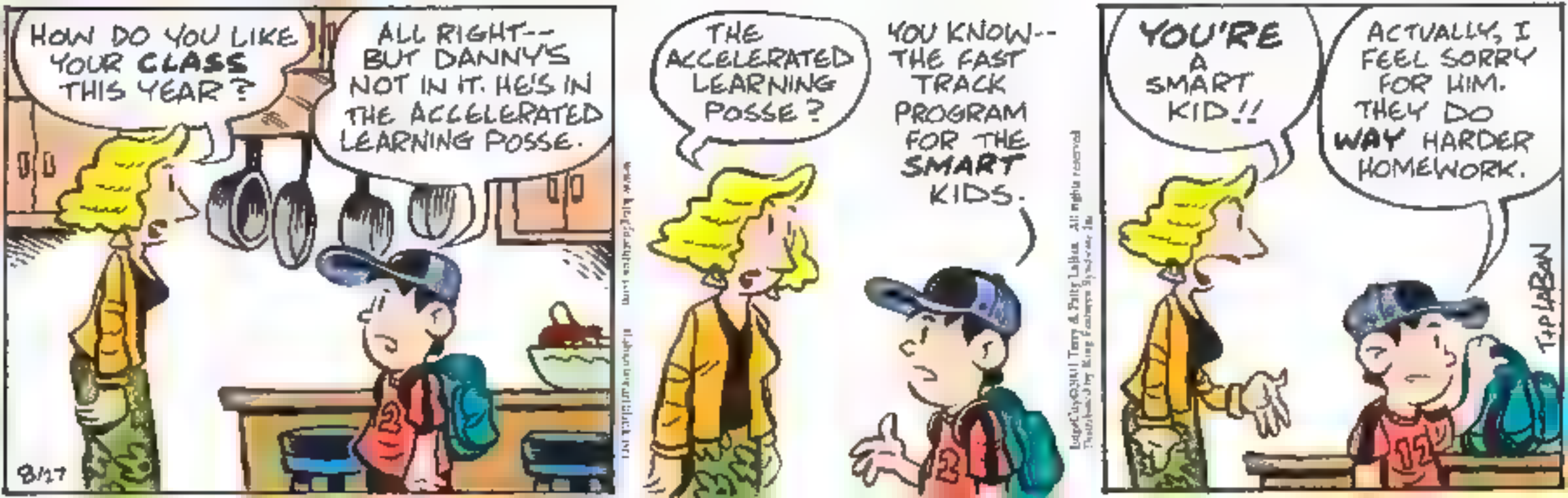
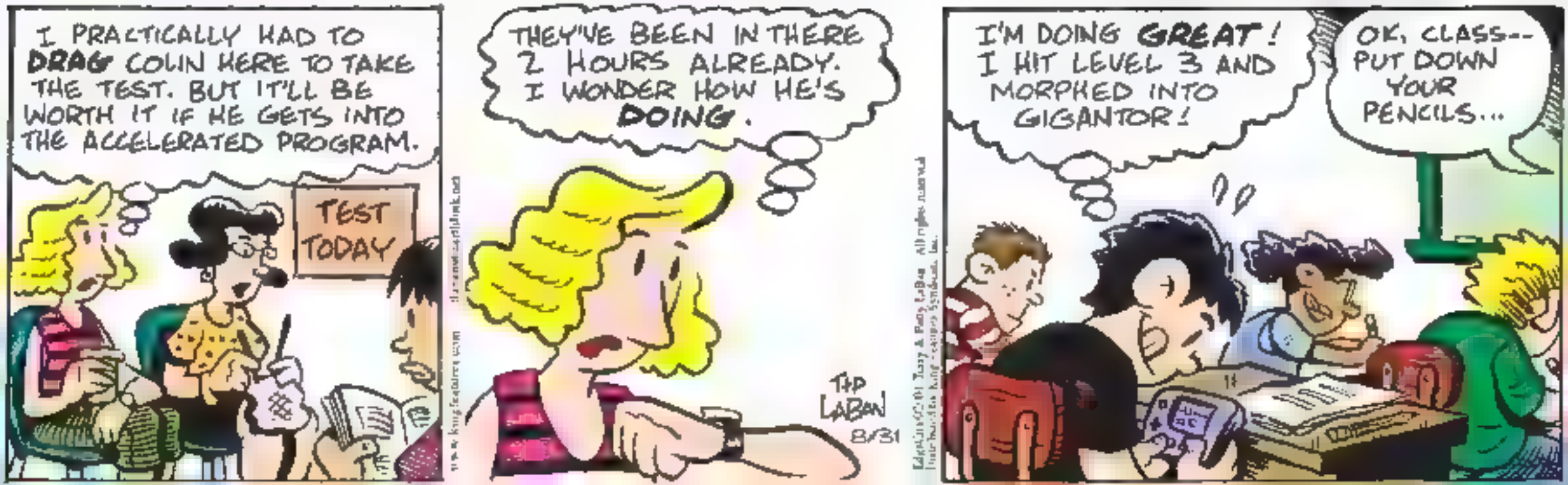
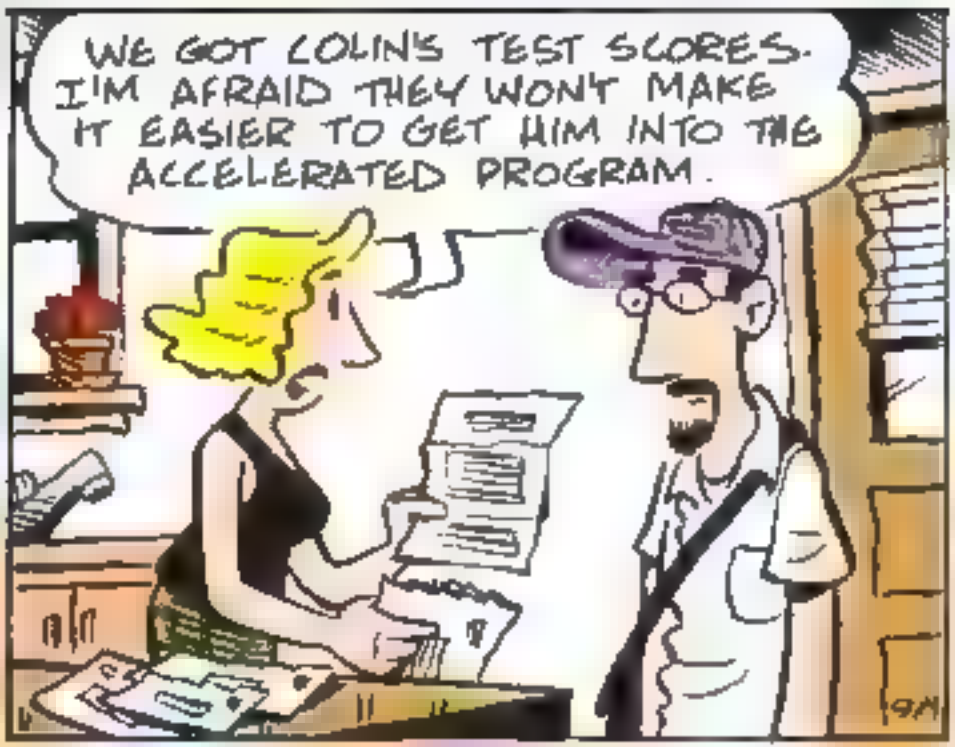

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR CLASS THIS YEAR?
ALL RIGHT-- BUT DANNY'S NOT IN IT. HE'S IN THE ACCELERATED LEARNING POSSE.
8/27
THE ACCELERATED LEARNING POSSE?
YOU KNOW-- THE FAST TRACK PROGRAM FOR THE SMART KIDS.
YOU'RE A SMART KID!!
ACTUALLY, I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. THEY DO WAY HARDER HOMEWORK.
T+P LaBan

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY PUT DANNY EAKINS IN THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM AND NOT COLIN!
I KNOW FOR A FACT DANNY ISN'T SMARTER THAN COLIN IS! COLIN READS AT A HIGHER LEVEL, AND HE'S MUCH MORE CREATIVE.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE JUST DOESN'T TEST WELL.
PLUS HE HAS MEDIOCRE GRADES AND A CRUMMY ATTITUDE...
TOPLADAN
8/18

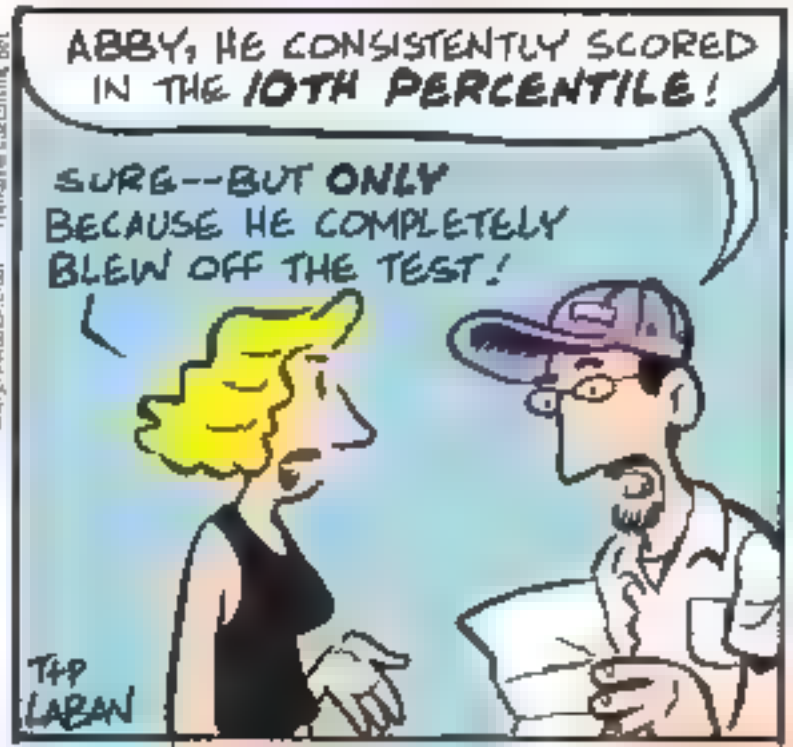
BOARD OF EDUCATION? MY SON WAS SOMEHOW OVERLOOKED FOR THE ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM, AND I'D LIKE TO GET HIM IN.
SO HE CAN STILL TAKE THE TEST? THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
OF COURSE, THERE MUST BE CASES WHERE TESTS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY...
WELL, THOMAS EDISON WAS A LOUSY STUDENT. YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
TIP LABAN
8/24

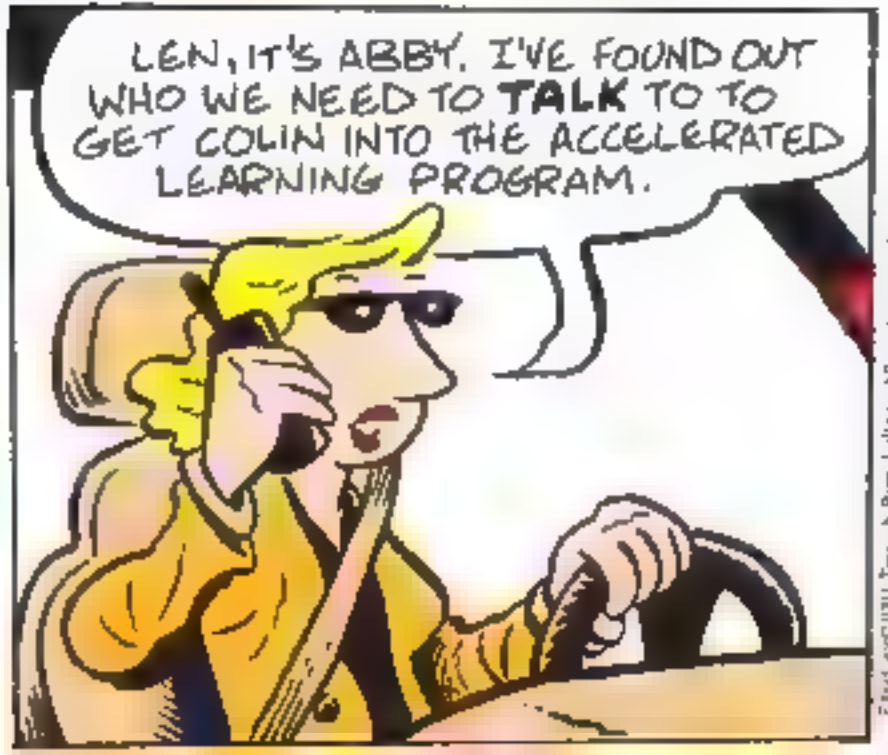
I DON'T WANNA TAKE THE TEST FOR THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM!
ALL RIGHT-- I'LL TALK TO YOUR MOTHER...
COLIN'S STILL REFUSING TO COME OUT OF HIS ROOM. IS IT REALLY WORTH ALL THIS TRAUMA?
LEN, THE KIDS IN THAT PROGRAM ARE ON THE FAST TRACK.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO'LL GET FIRST PICK OF THE OPPORTUNITIES. EVERYONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT'S LEFT!
WHAT'D SHE SAY?
THAT IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE TEST, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST STAY IN THERE.
COLIN'S ROOM
TIP LABAN
8/30

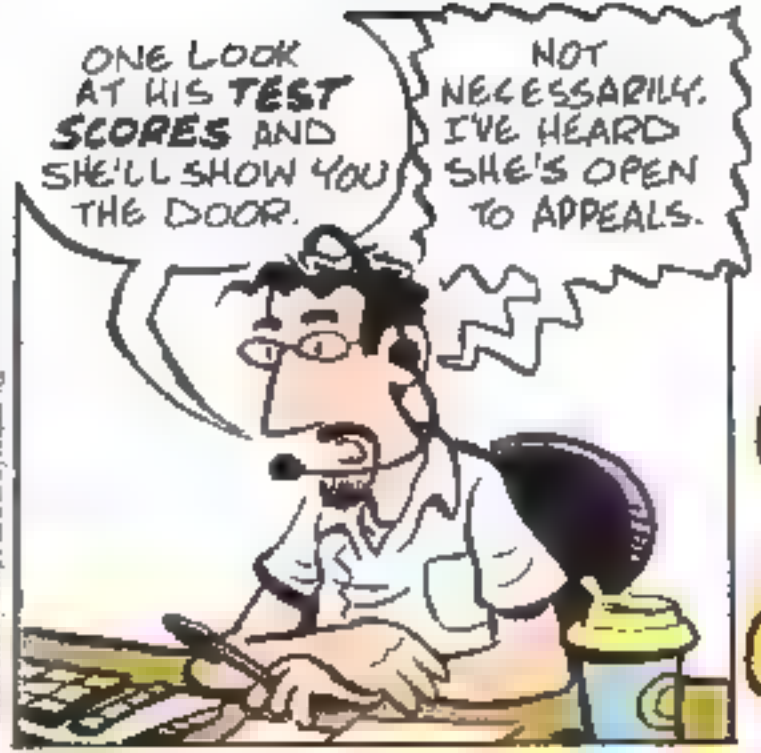

I PRACTICALLY HAD TO DRAG COLIN HERE TO TAKE THE TEST. BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT IF HE GETS INTO THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM.
TEST TODAY
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE 2 HOURS ALREADY. I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING.
TOP LABAN 8/31
I'M DOING GREAT! I HIT LEVEL 3 AND MORPHED INTO GIGANTOR!
OK, CLASS-- PUT DOWN YOUR PENCILS...


WE GOT COLIN'S TEST SCORES. I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T MAKE IT EASIER TO GET HIM INTO THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM.

THAT'S FOR SURE! I'D SAY THEY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE!
WELL, I'M GOING TO APPEAL FOR AN EXCEPTION.

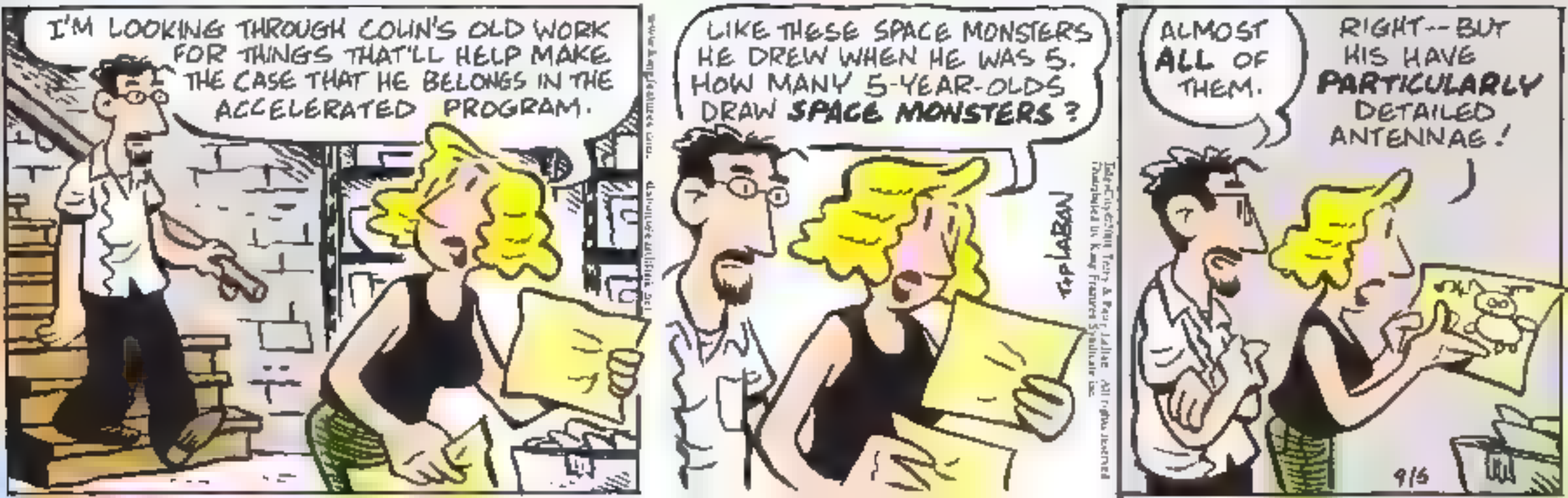

ABBY, HE CONSISTENTLY SCORED IN THE 10TH PERCENTILE!
SURE--BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE COMPLETELY BLEW OFF THE TEST!
TAP LABAN

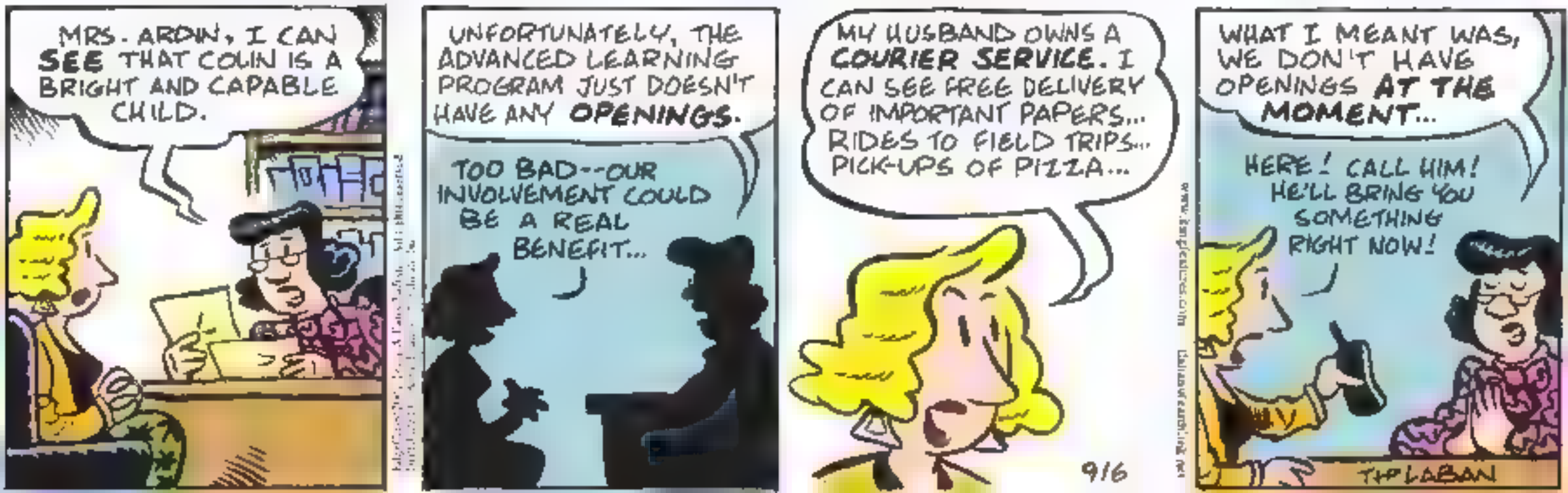

LEN, IT'S ABBY. I'VE FOUND OUT WHO WE NEED TO TALK TO TO GET COLIN INTO THE ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM.


ONE LOOK AT HIS TEST SCORES AND SHE'LL SHOW YOU THE DOOR.
NOT NECESSARILY. I'VE HEARD SHE'S OPEN TO APPEALS.

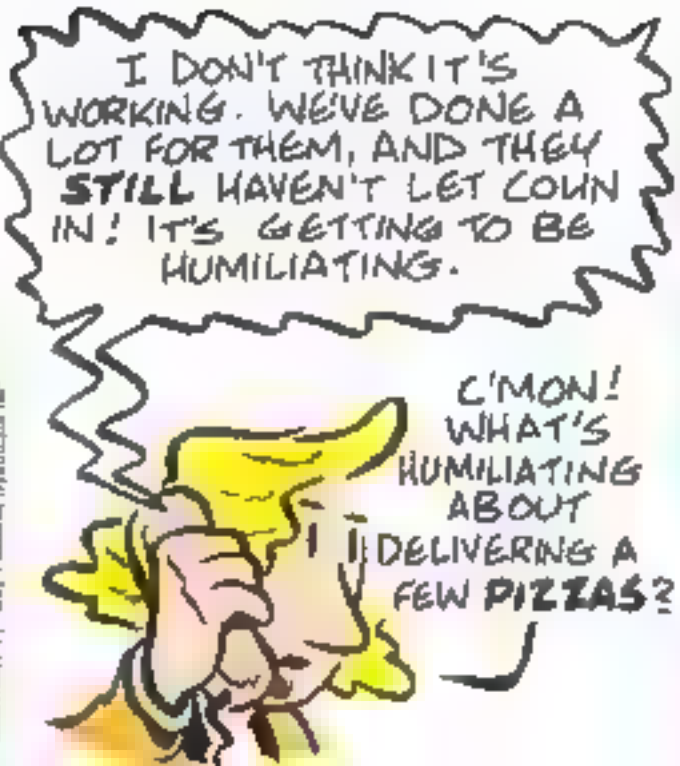
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE GOING TO BEG.
ONLY IF SHE TURNS DOWN GOODS, SERVICES OR CASH.
TMP LABAN 9/3

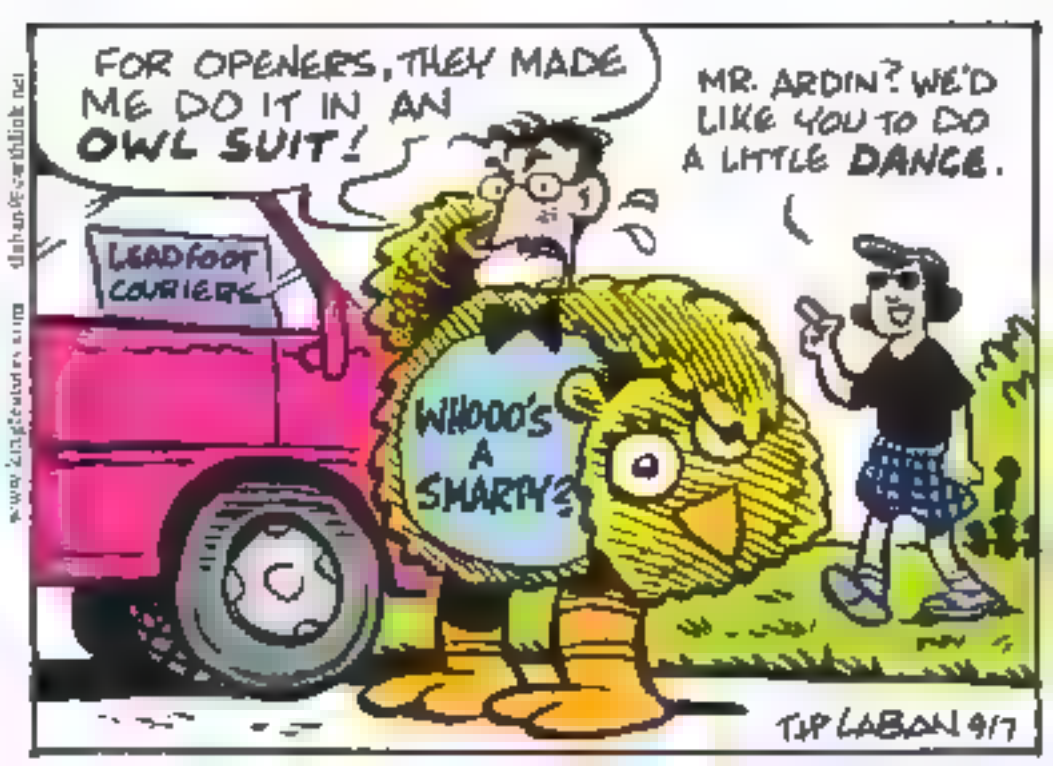
I'VE BEEN WAITING BY THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PARKING SPACE FOR AN HOUR. I HOPE SHE DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF!
RESERVE
FINALLY!
MS. WILKINS? I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT GETTING MY SON INTO THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM!
SORRY-- MY SCHEDULE'S FULL THIS WEEK.
I'M GOOD AT FUNDRAISING!
HOW ABOUT TOMORROW AT 11:00AM?
TIP LABAN 9/4

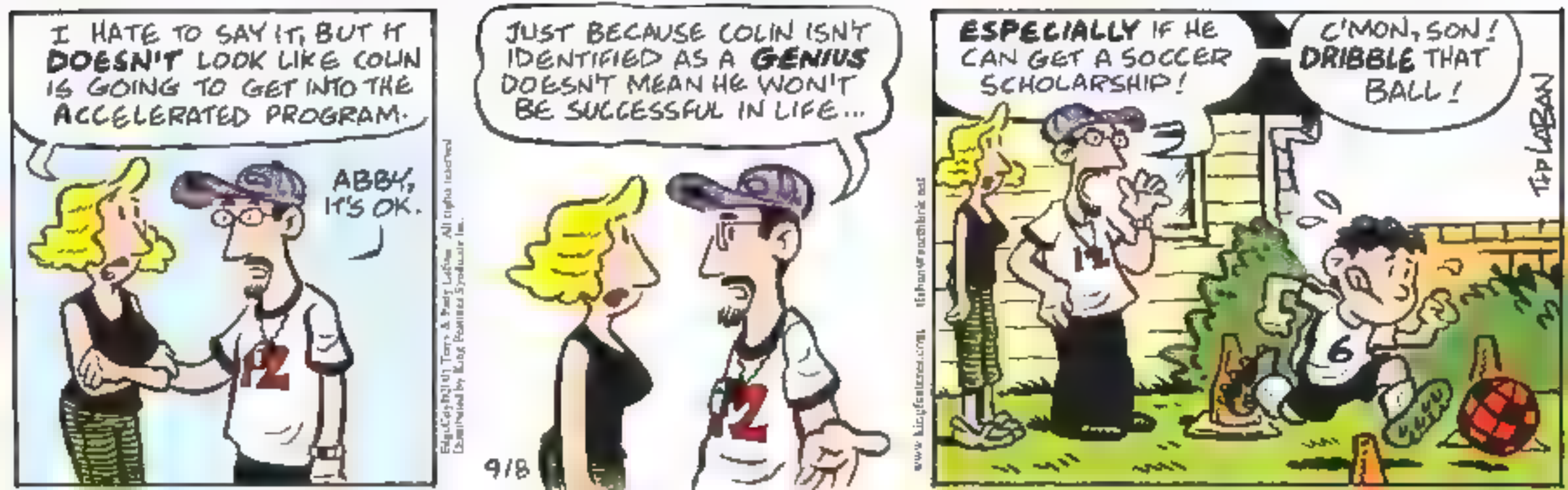

I'M LOOKING THROUGH COLIN'S OLD WORK FOR THINGS THAT'LL HELP MAKE THE CASE THAT HE BELONGS IN THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM.
LIKE THESE SPACE MONSTERS HE DREW WHEN HE WAS 5. HOW MANY 5-YEAR-OLDS DRAW SPACE MONSTERS?
LABAN
ALMOST ALL OF THEM.
RIGHT--BUT HIS HAVE PARTICULARLY DETAILED ANTENNAE!
9/5

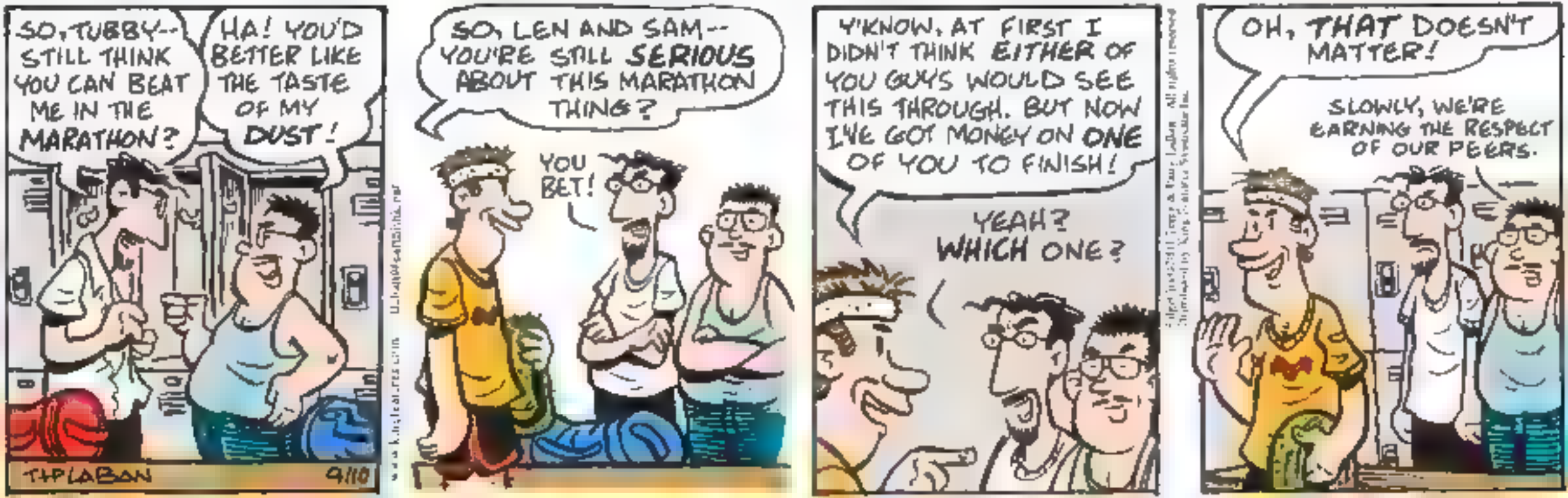

MRS. ARDIN, I CAN SEE THAT COLIN IS A BRIGHT AND CAPABLE CHILD.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE ADVANCED LEARNING PROGRAM JUST DOESN'T HAVE ANY OPENINGS.
TOO BAD--OUR INVOLVEMENT COULD BE A REAL BENEFIT...
MY HUSBAND OWNS A COURIER SERVICE. I CAN SEE FREE DELIVERY OF IMPORTANT PAPERS... RIDES TO FIELD TRIPS... PICK-UPS OF PIZZA...
9/6
WHAT I MEANT WAS, WE DON'T HAVE OPENINGS AT THE MOMENT...
HERE! CALL HIM! HE'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING RIGHT NOW!
THP LABAN

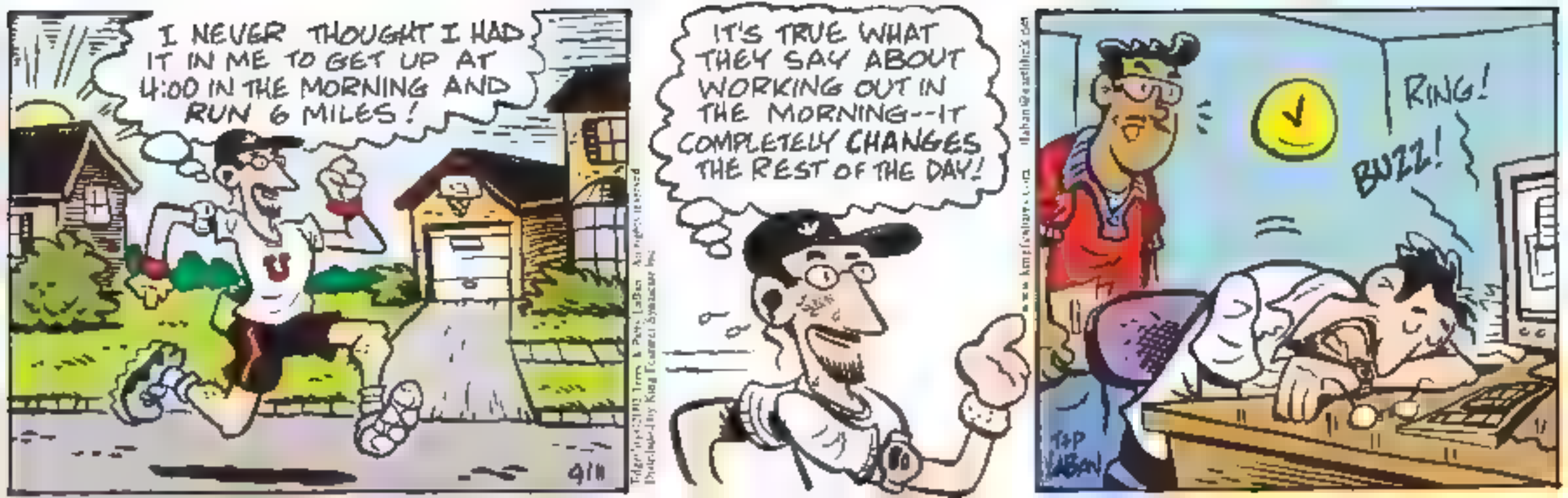
ABBY, IT'S LEN. I JUST DELIVERED THE PIZZAS TO THE ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM **PICNIC**.
GREAT! HOW'D IT GO?

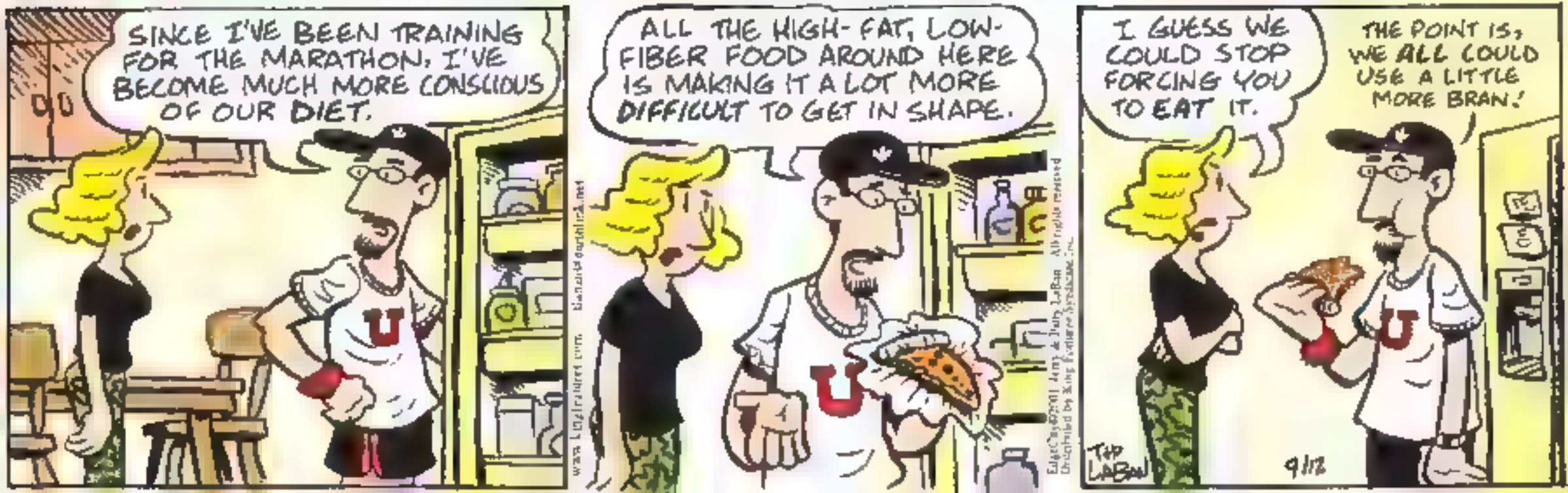

I DON'T THINK IT'S WORKING. WE'VE DONE A LOT FOR THEM, AND THEY **STILL** HAVEN'T LET COUN IN! IT'S GETTING TO BE HUMILIATING.
C'MON! WHAT'S HUMILIATING ABOUT DELIVERING A FEW **PIZZAS**?

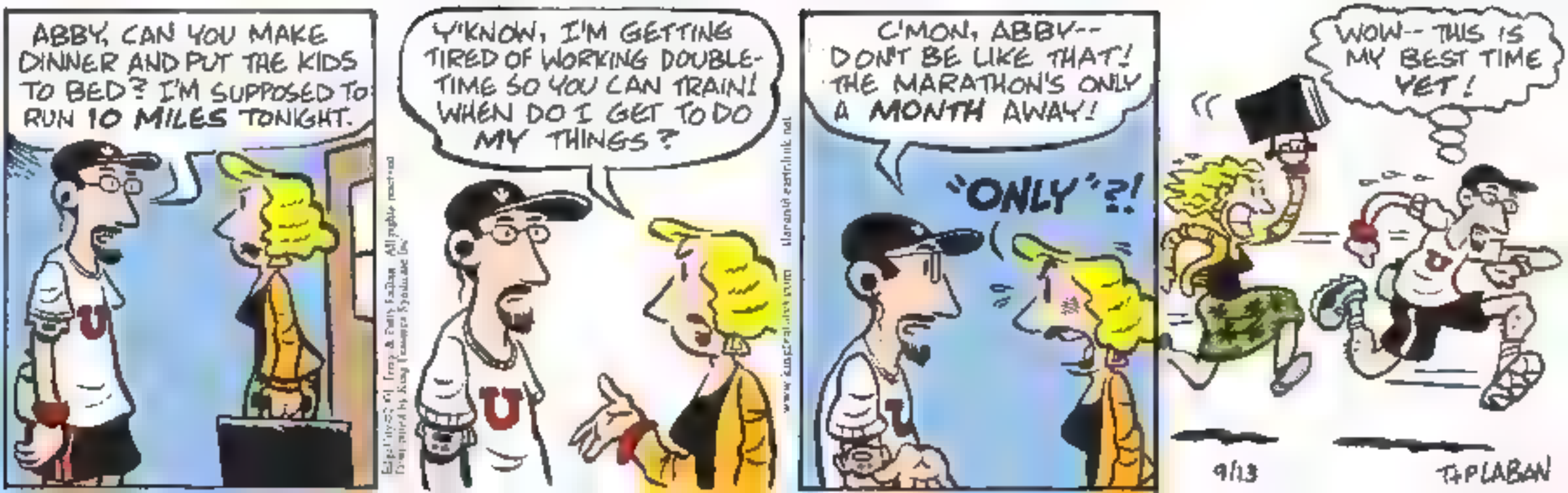

FOR OPENERS, THEY MADE ME DO IT IN AN **OWL SUIT!**
MR. ARDIN? WE'D LIKE YOU TO DO A LITTLE **DANCE**.
LEADFOOT COURIERS
WHOOO'S A SMARTY?
TIP LABAN 9/7


I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE COLIN IS GOING TO GET INTO THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM.
ABBY, IT'S OK.
JUST BECAUSE COLIN ISN'T IDENTIFIED AS A GENIUS DOESN'T MEAN HE WON'T BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE...
9/8
ESPECIALLY IF HE CAN GET A SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP!
C'MON, SON! DRIBBLE THAT BALL!

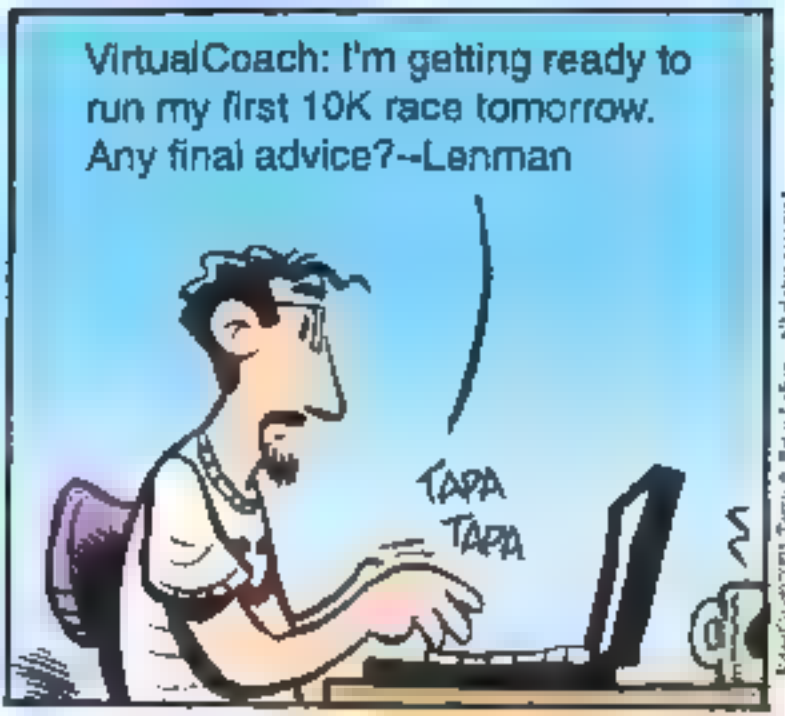

SO, TUBBY-- STILL THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME IN THE MARATHON?
HA! YOU'D BETTER LIKE THE TASTE OF MY DUST!
THPLABAN
9/10
SO, LEN AND SAM-- YOU'RE STILL SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MARATHON THING?
YOU BET!
Y'KNOW, AT FIRST I DIDN'T THINK EITHER OF YOU GUYS WOULD SEE THIS THROUGH. BUT NOW I'VE GOT MONEY ON ONE OF YOU TO FINISH!
YEAH? WHICH ONE?
OH, THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
SLOWLY, WE'RE EARNING THE RESPECT OF OUR PEERS.

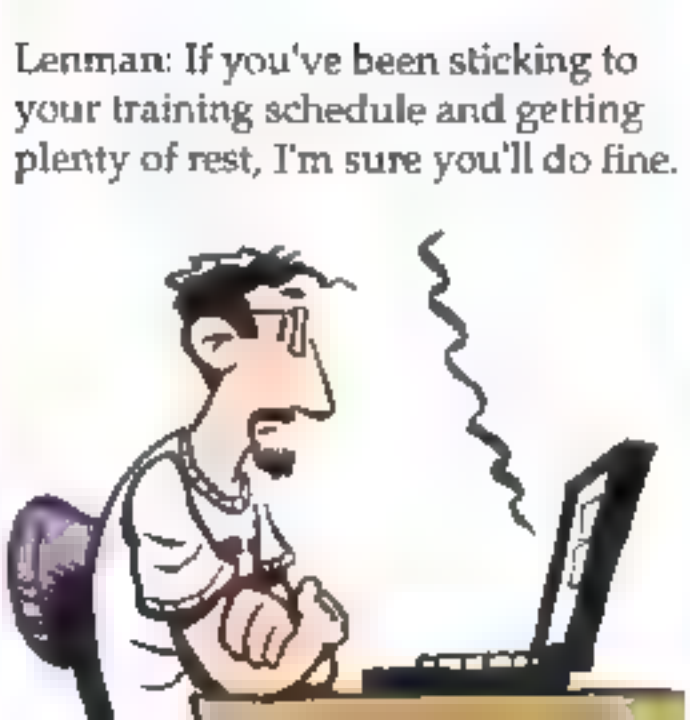

I NEVER THOUGHT I HAD IT IN ME TO GET UP AT 4:00 IN THE MORNING AND RUN 6 MILES!
4/11
IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT WORKING OUT IN THE MORNING--IT COMPLETELY CHANGES THE REST OF THE DAY!
RING!
BUZZ!
T&P LABAN

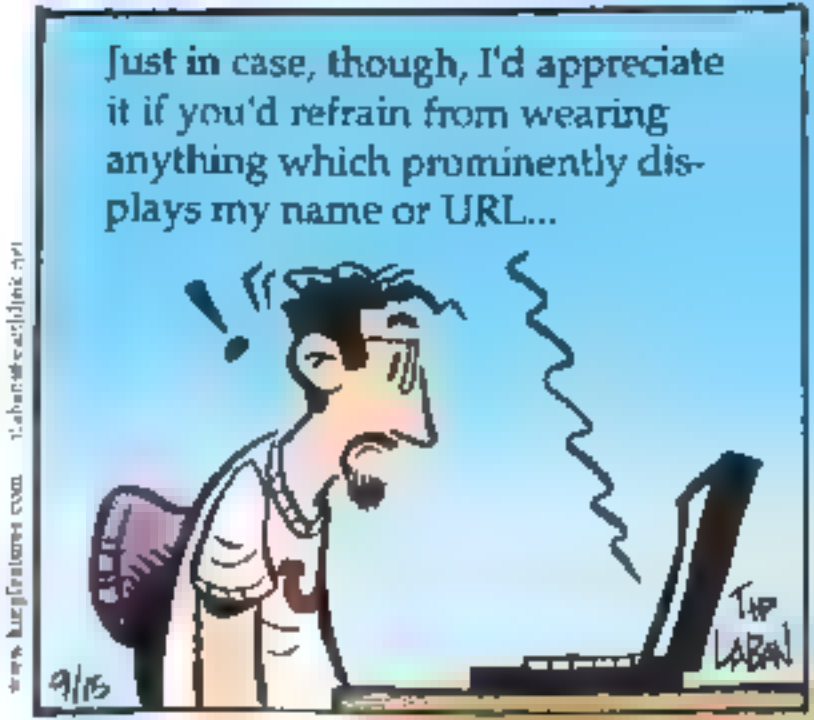

SINCE I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR THE MARATHON, I'VE BECOME MUCH MORE CONSCIOUS OF OUR DIET.
ALL THE HIGH-FAT, LOW-FIBER FOOD AROUND HERE IS MAKING IT A LOT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET IN SHAPE.
I GUESS WE COULD STOP FORCING YOU TO EAT IT.
THE POINT IS, WE ALL COULD USE A LITTLE MORE BRAN!
TED LABAN
9/12

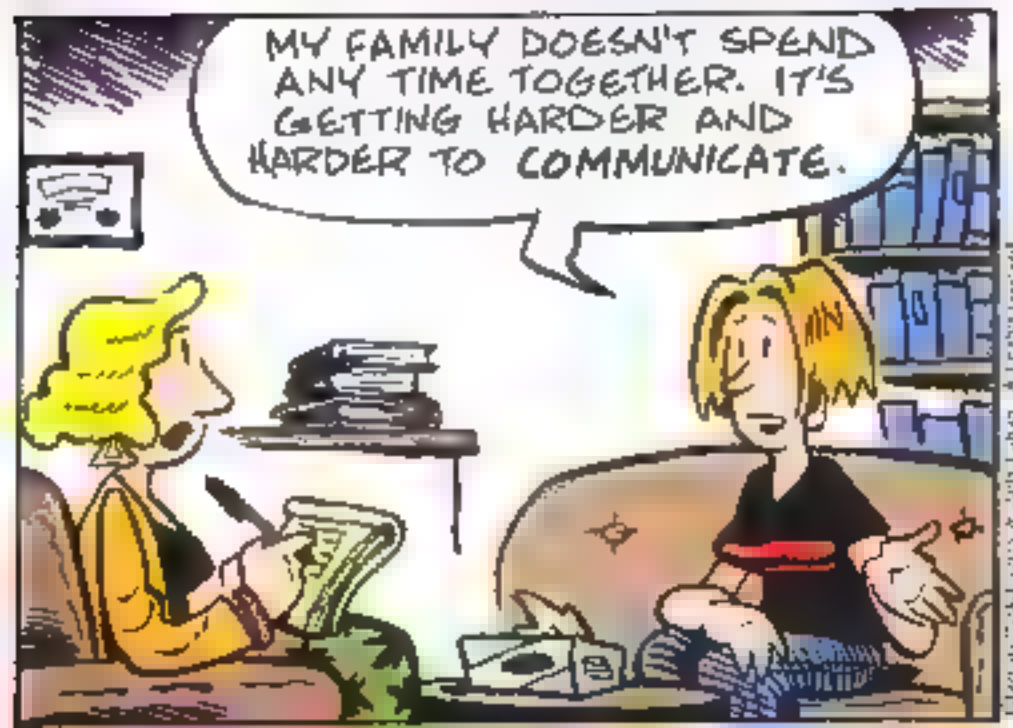

ABBY, CAN YOU MAKE DINNER AND PUT THE KIDS TO BED? I'M SUPPOSED TO RUN 10 MILES TONIGHT.
Y'KNOW, I'M GETTING TIRED OF WORKING DOUBLE-TIME SO YOU CAN TRAIN! WHEN DO I GET TO DO MY THINGS?
C'MON, ABBY-- DON'T BE LIKE THAT! THE MARATHON'S ONLY A MONTH AWAY!
"ONLY"?!
WOW-- THIS IS MY BEST TIME YET!
9/13
T&P LABAN

VirtualCoach: I've been training, but I'm starting to doubt I'll ever be able to finish a marathon.
--Lenman
TAPA TAPA
Lenman: The greatest obstacles we face aren't physical--they're in our minds.
I'm going to give you a phrase that has inspired many in your place. Repeat it as you train, till you believe it with all your being.
"If I don't do this, I am the biggest loser in the world."
MAN, THERE'S NOTHING TOUCHY-FEELY ABOUT THIS GUY.
4/14


VirtualCoach: I'm getting ready to run my first 10K race tomorrow. Any final advice?--Lenman
TAPA TAPA

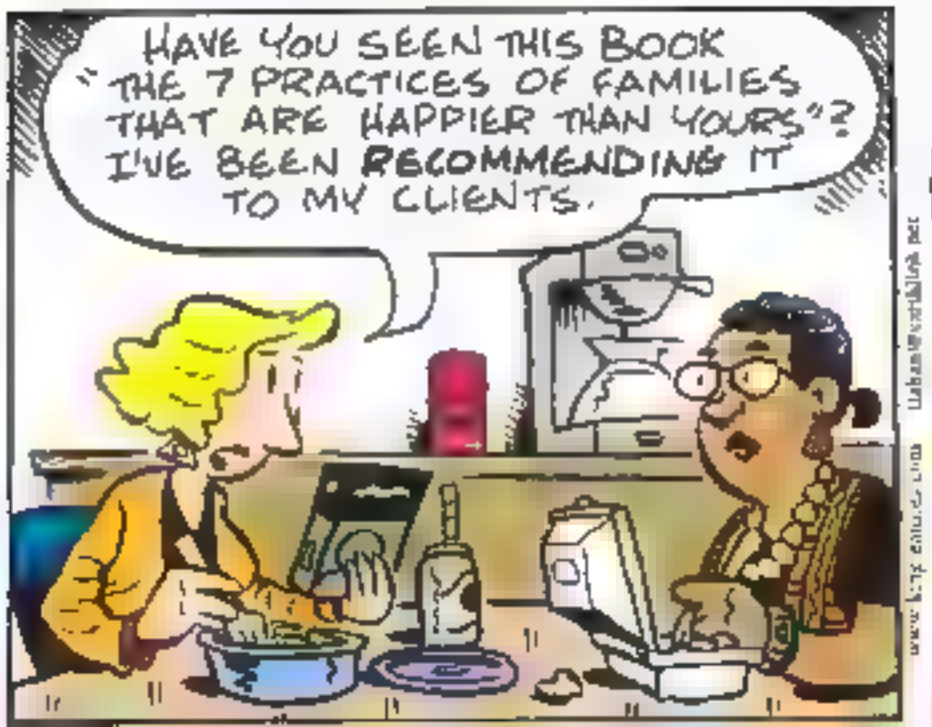

Lenman: If you've been sticking to your training schedule and getting plenty of rest, I'm sure you'll do fine.

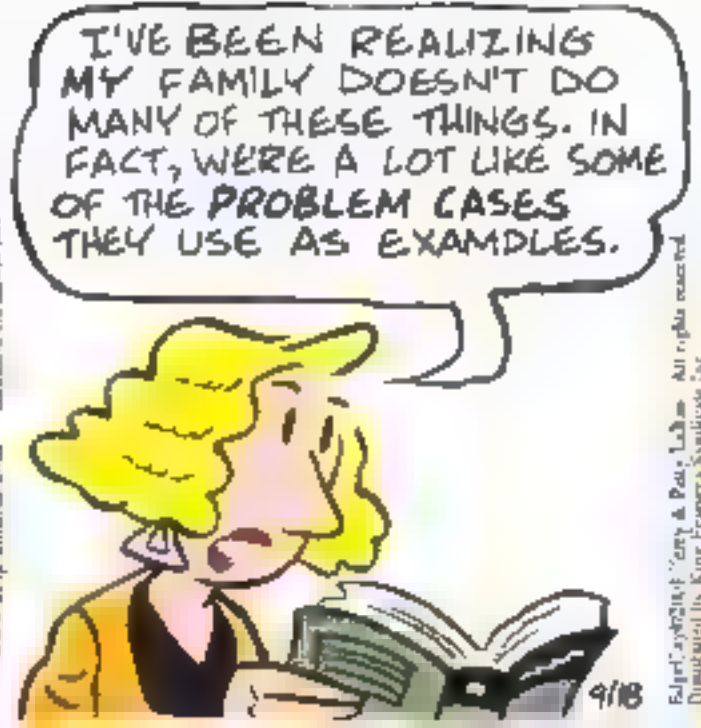

Just in case, though, I'd appreciate it if you'd refrain from wearing anything which prominently displays my name or URL...
9/15
THE LABAN


MY FAMILY DOESN'T SPEND ANY TIME TOGETHER. IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO COMMUNICATE.

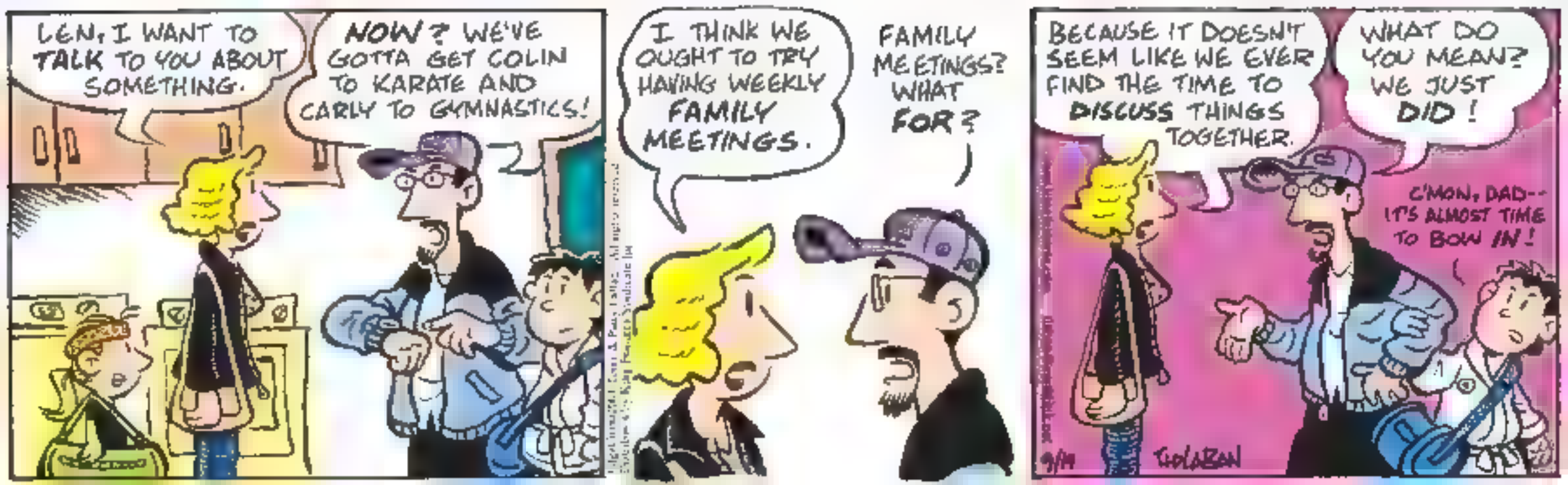
BUT MAYBE THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE TODAY.
NOT NECESSARILY. THERE'S A BOOK YOU SHOULD LOOK AT.

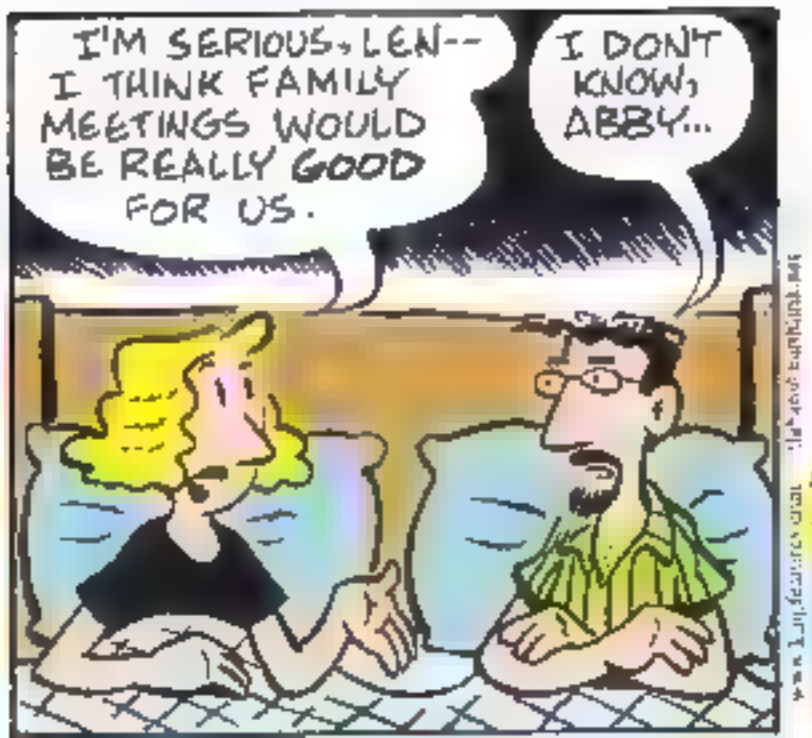
"THE 7 PRACTICES OF FAMILIES THAT ARE HAPPIER THAN YOURS"
IT'S A BEST SELLER. YOU CAN FIND IT ALL OVER.
THE LABAN


HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BOOK "THE 7 PRACTICES OF FAMILIES THAT ARE HAPPIER THAN YOURS"? I'VE BEEN RECOMMENDING IT TO MY CLIENTS.

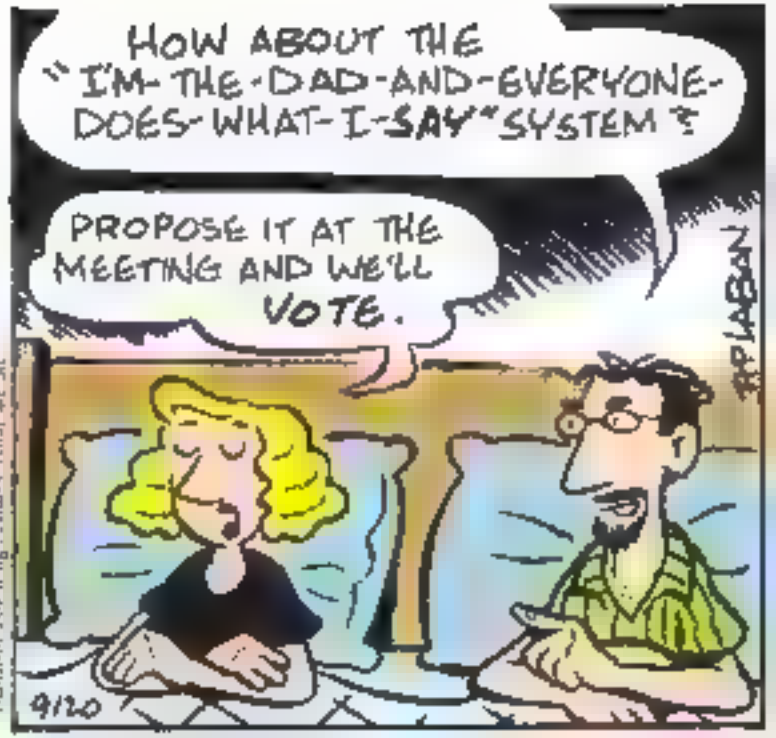

I'VE BEEN REALIZING MY FAMILY DOESN'T DO MANY OF THESE THINGS. IN FACT, WE'RE A LOT LIKE SOME OF THE PROBLEM CASES THEY USE AS EXAMPLES.
9/18

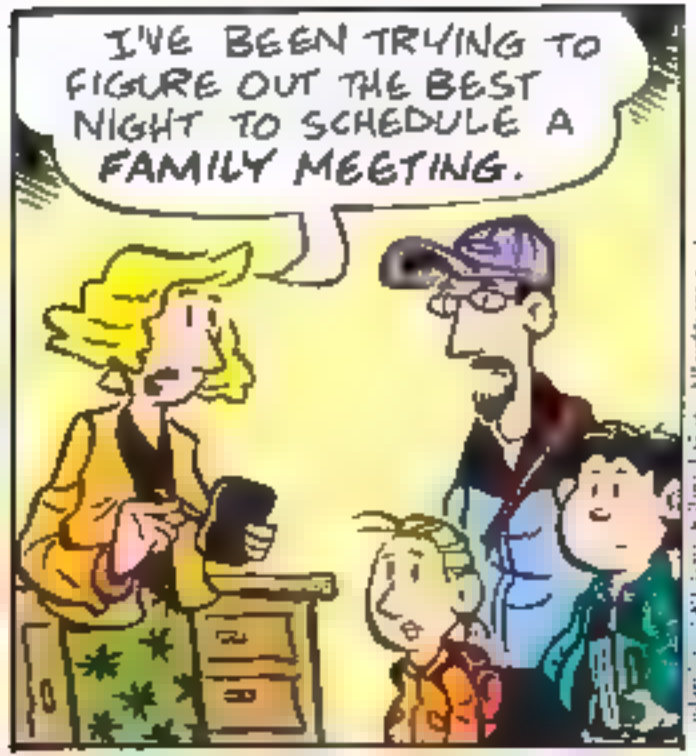
* TIM AND MARY: THEY WERE ALWAYS AT WORK-- HOW COULD THEY KNOW?*
I THINK IT'S TIME TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM.
TAHLADAN


LEN, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
NOW? WE'VE GOTTA GET COLIN TO KARATE AND CARLY TO GYMNASTICS!
I THINK WE OUGHT TO TRY HAVING WEEKLY FAMILY MEETINGS.
FAMILY MEETINGS? WHAT FOR?
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE EVER FIND THE TIME TO DISCUSS THINGS TOGETHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE JUST DID!
C'MON, DAD-- IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BOW IN!
9/19
GOLABAN


I'M SERIOUS, LEN-- I THINK FAMILY MEETINGS WOULD BE REALLY GOOD FOR US.
I DON'T KNOW, ABBY...

I'M JUST NOT INTO THAT TOUCHY-FEELY STUFF.
WELL, WE NEED SOME WAY OF WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AROUND HERE.

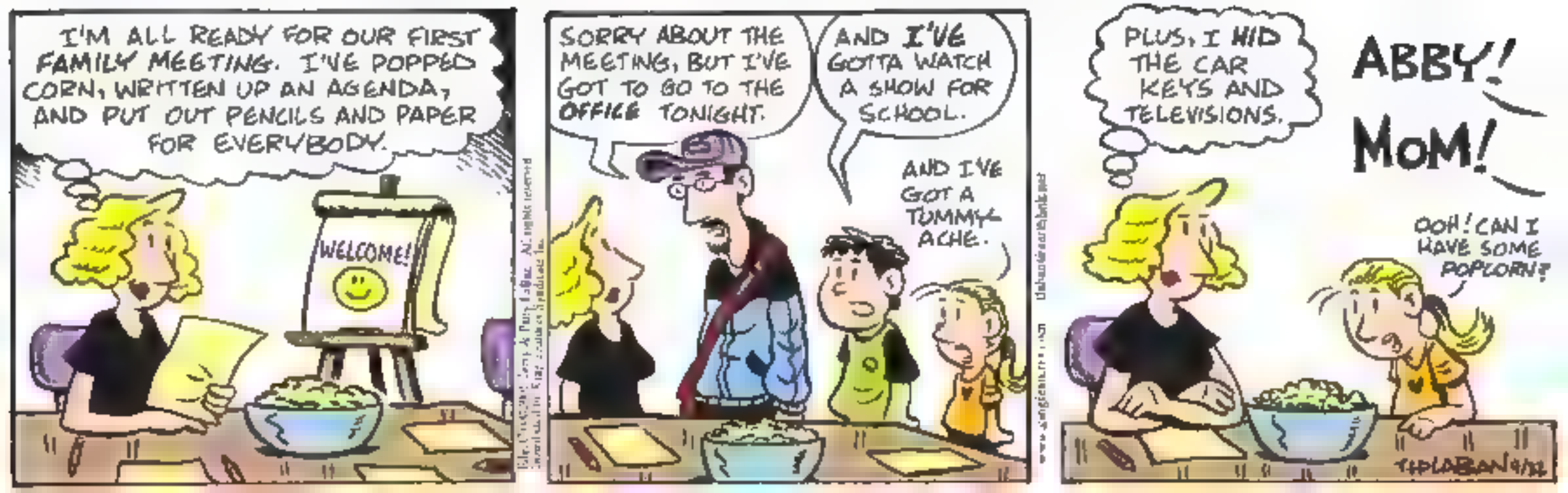

HOW ABOUT THE "I'M-THE-DAD-AND-EVERYONE-DOES-WHAT-I-SAY" SYSTEM?
PROPOSE IT AT THE MEETING AND WE'LL VOTE.
9/20


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST NIGHT TO SCHEDULE A FAMILY MEETING.

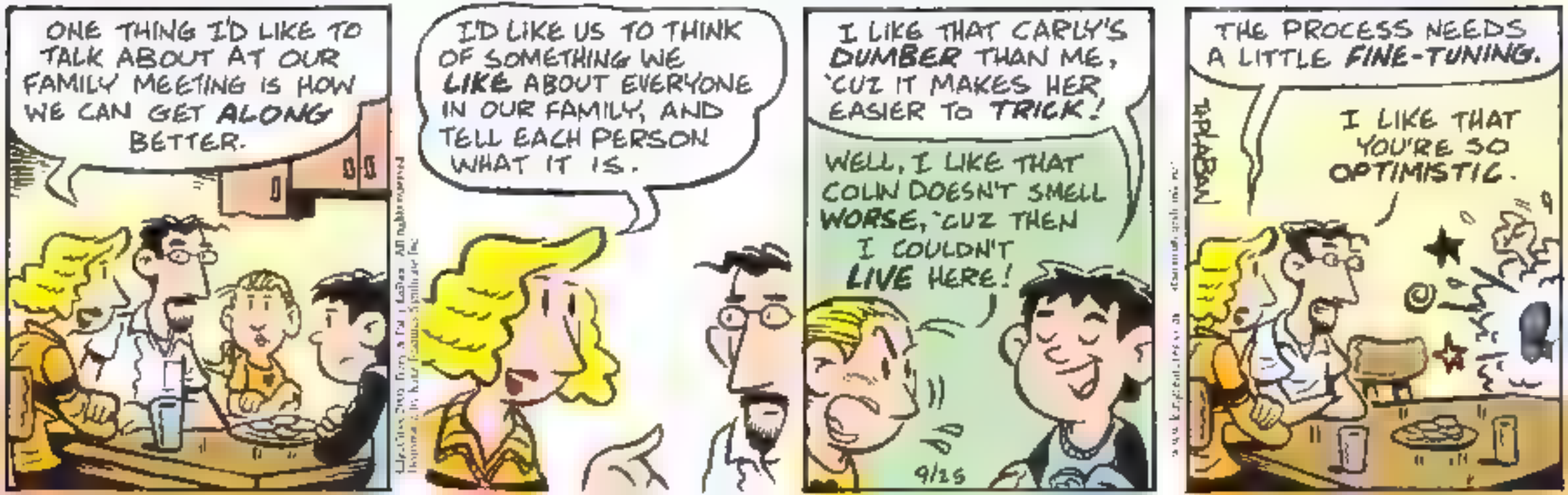
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY WE WORK. TUESDAY AND FRIDAY THE KIDS HAVE ACTIVITIES. SATURDAY WE GO OUT, AND SUNDAY WE SEE MY FOLKS. HOW ABOUT THURSDAY?

THAT'S WWF NIGHT!!

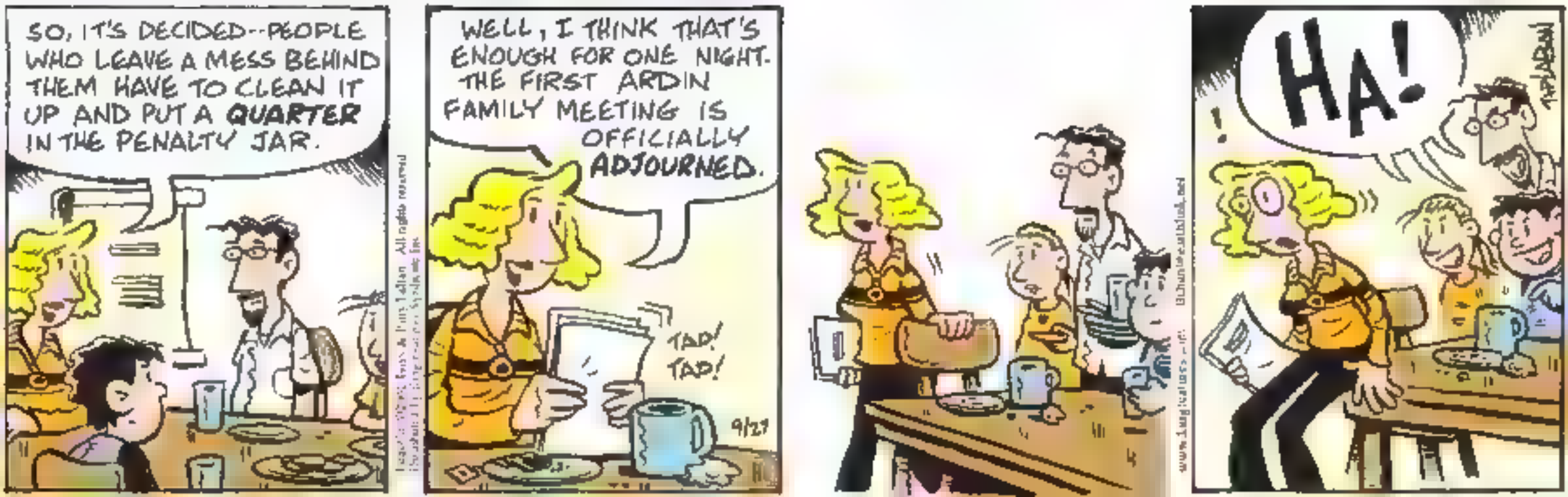
LEN, EXPLAIN TO COLIN WHY PRO WRESTLING IS NOT A CONSIDERATION.
HOLD ON-- ISN'T THIS THE WEEK BOSSMAN FIGHTS THE UNDERTAKER?
4/21

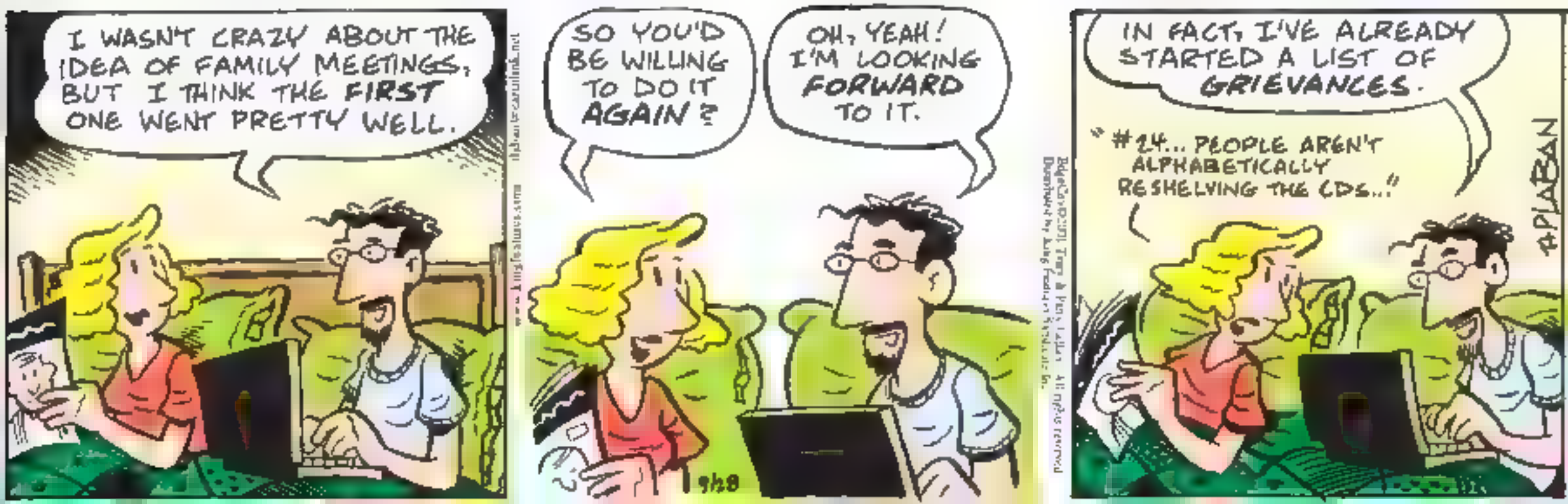

I'M ALL READY FOR OUR FIRST FAMILY MEETING. I'VE POPPED CORN, WRITTEN UP AN AGENDA, AND PUT OUT PENCILS AND PAPER FOR EVERYBODY.
WELCOME!
SORRY ABOUT THE MEETING, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE OFFICE TONIGHT.
AND I'VE GOTTA WATCH A SHOW FOR SCHOOL.
AND I'VE GOT A TUMMY ACHE.
PLUS, I HID THE CAR KEYS AND TELEVISIONS.
ABBY!
MOM!
OOH! CAN I HAVE SOME POPCORN?
THPLABAN 9/22

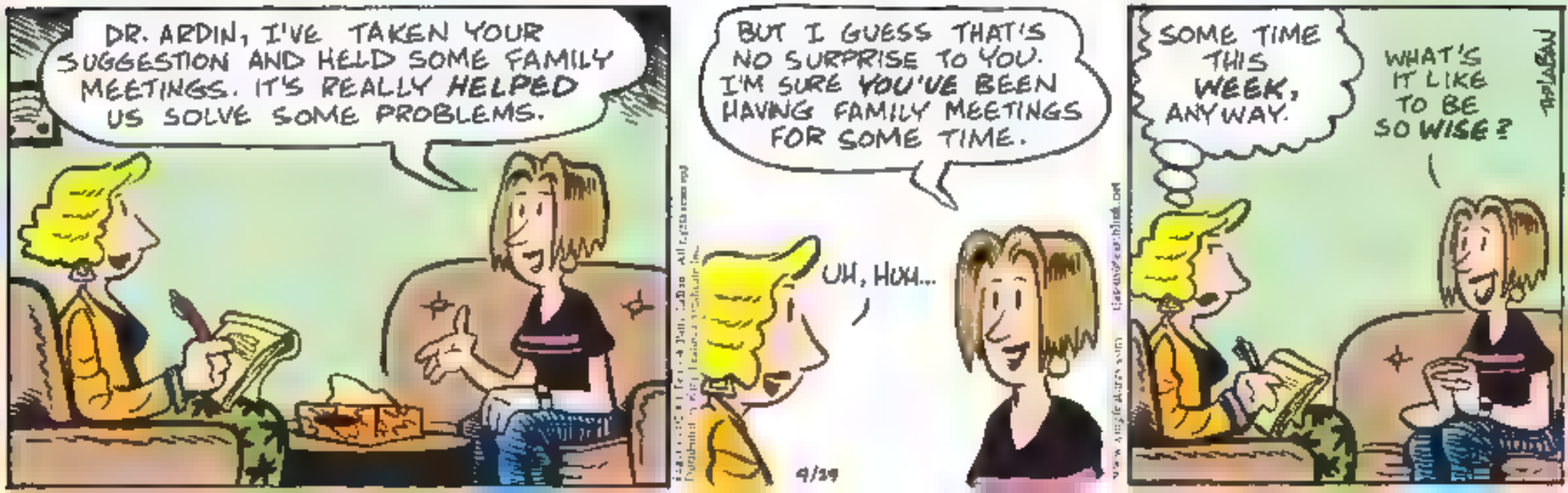
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE FIRST ARDIN FAMILY MEETING.
THIS WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO TALK TO EACH OTHER, SOLVE PROBLEMS AND PLAN WAYS TO HAVE FUN!
I THOUGHT WE COULD BEGIN BY TALKING ABOUT THINGS WE'D LIKE TO CHANGE.
COLIN?
I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE FAMILY MEETINGS.
DULY NOTED. WHO'S NEXT?
9/24

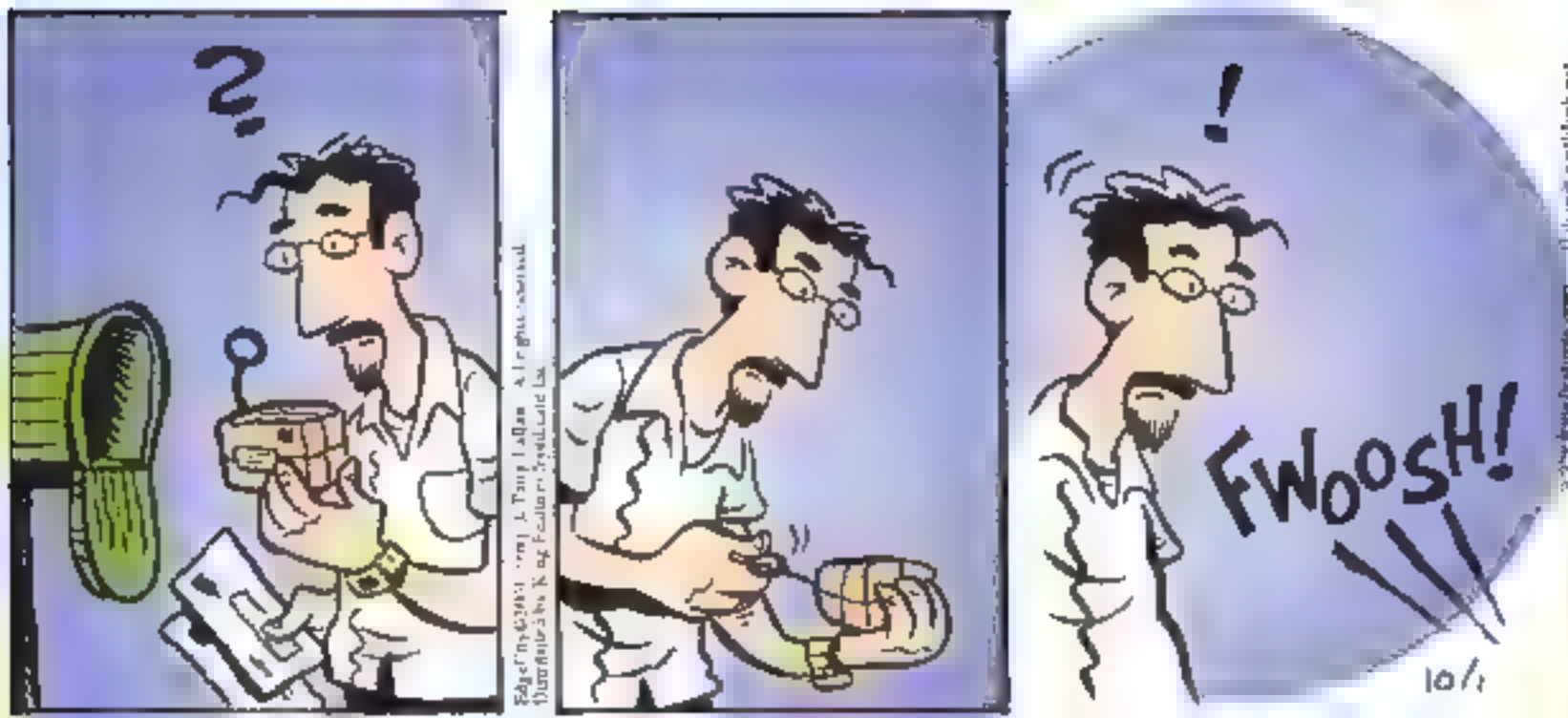

ONE THING I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT AT OUR FAMILY MEETING IS HOW WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER.
I'D LIKE US TO THINK OF SOMETHING WE LIKE ABOUT EVERYONE IN OUR FAMILY, AND TELL EACH PERSON WHAT IT IS.
I LIKE THAT CARLY'S DUMBER THAN ME, 'CUZ IT MAKES HER EASIER TO TRICK!
WELL, I LIKE THAT COLIN DOESN'T SMELL WORSE, 'CUZ THEN I COULDN'T LIVE HERE!
9/25
THE PROCESS NEEDS A LITTLE FINE-TUNING.
I LIKE THAT YOU'RE SO OPTIMISTIC.
TAPLABAN

ANOTHER THING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS AT OUR FAMILY MEETING IS HAVING A CLEANER HOUSE. MAYBE WE CAN DECIDE ON A PENALTY FOR SOMEONE WHO LEAVES A MESS.
THEY SHOULD CLEAN IT UP AND PUT A QUARTER IN A PENALTY JAR.
AND MAYBE THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WATCH TV.
9/26
AND THEY SHOULD GET GROUNDED!
GROUNDED FOR A WEEK--WITHOUT ANY FOOD!
MAKE 'EM BREAK ROCKS!
BOIL 'EM IN OIL!!
AND I DIDN'T THINK THE KIDS WOULD LIKE FAMILY MEETINGS.


SO, IT'S DECIDED--PEOPLE WHO LEAVE A MESS BEHIND THEM HAVE TO CLEAN IT UP AND PUT A QUARTER IN THE PENALTY JAR.
WELL, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT. THE FIRST ARDIN FAMILY MEETING IS OFFICIALLY ADJOURNED.
TAP! TAP!
9/27
HA!

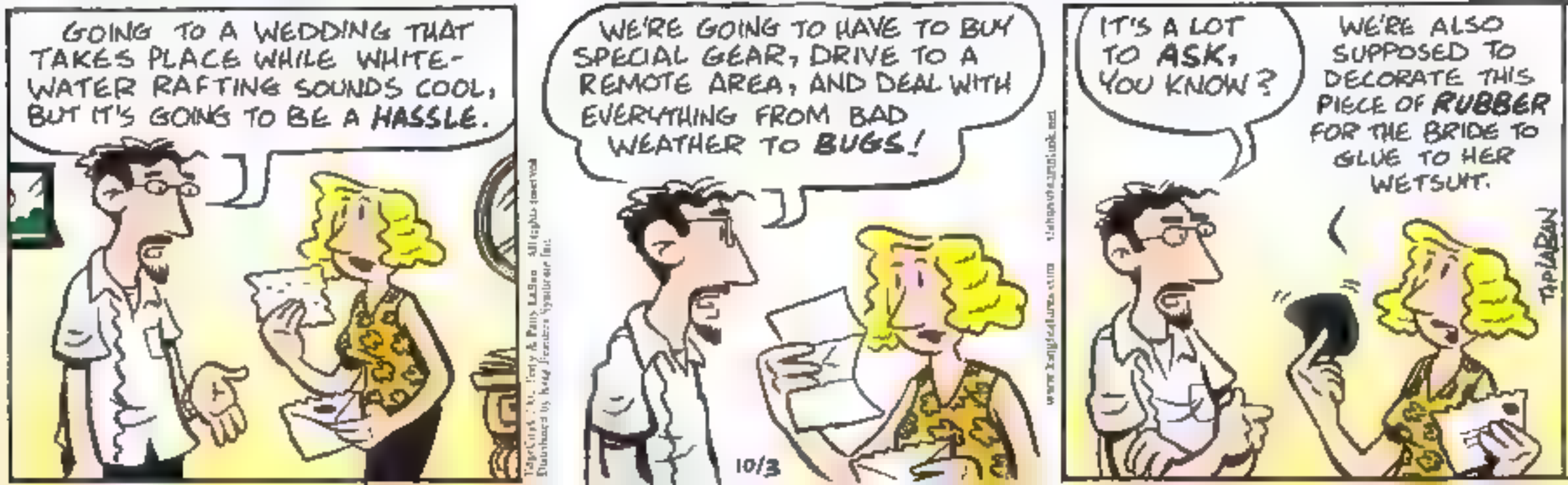

I WASN'T CRAZY ABOUT THE IDEA OF FAMILY MEETINGS, BUT I THINK THE FIRST ONE WENT PRETTY WELL.
SO YOU'D BE WILLING TO DO IT AGAIN?
OH, YEAH! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
IN FACT, I'VE ALREADY STARTED A LIST OF GRIEVANCES.
"#24... PEOPLE AREN'T ALPHABETICALLY RESHELVING THE CDS..."
APLABAN

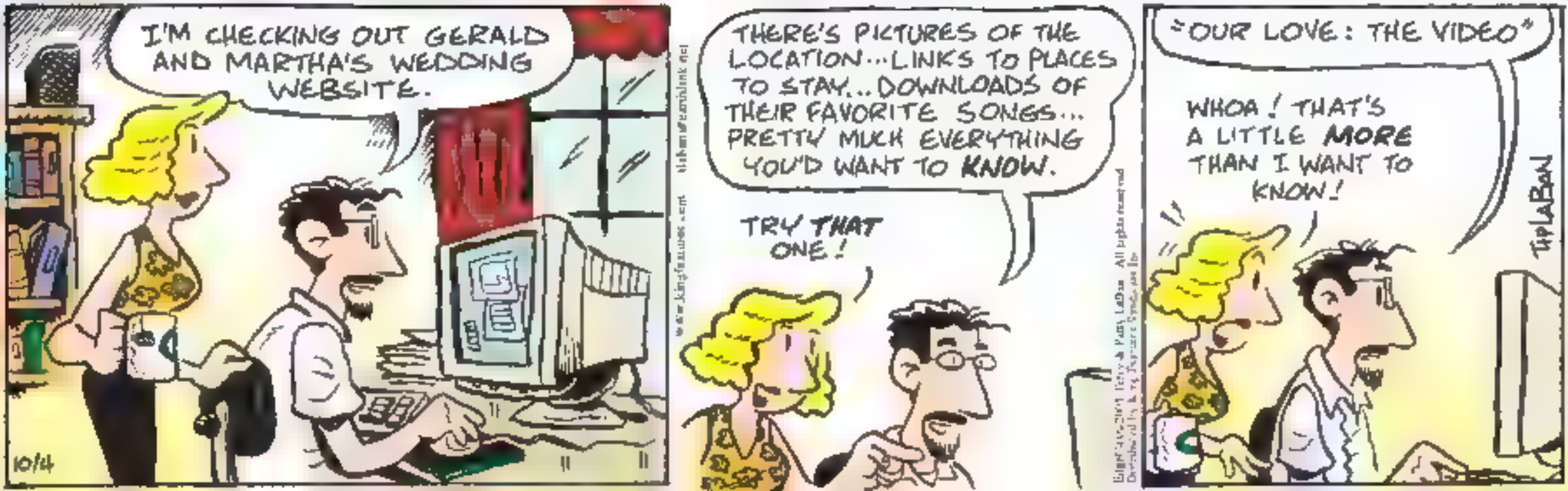

DR. ARDIN, I'VE TAKEN YOUR SUGGESTION AND HELD SOME FAMILY MEETINGS. IT'S REALLY HELPED US SOLVE SOME PROBLEMS.
BUT I GUESS THAT'S NO SURPRISE TO YOU. I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING FAMILY MEETINGS FOR SOME TIME.
UH, HUH...
9/29
SOME TIME THIS WEEK, ANYWAY.
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE SO WISE?

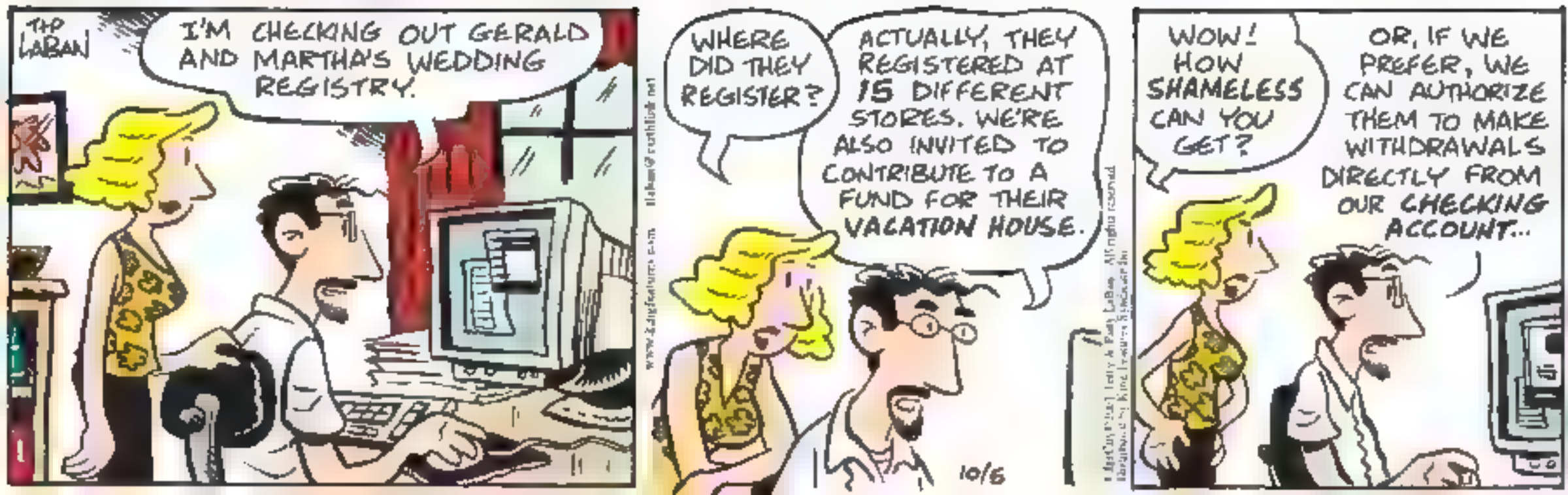

?
!
FWOOSH!
10/1

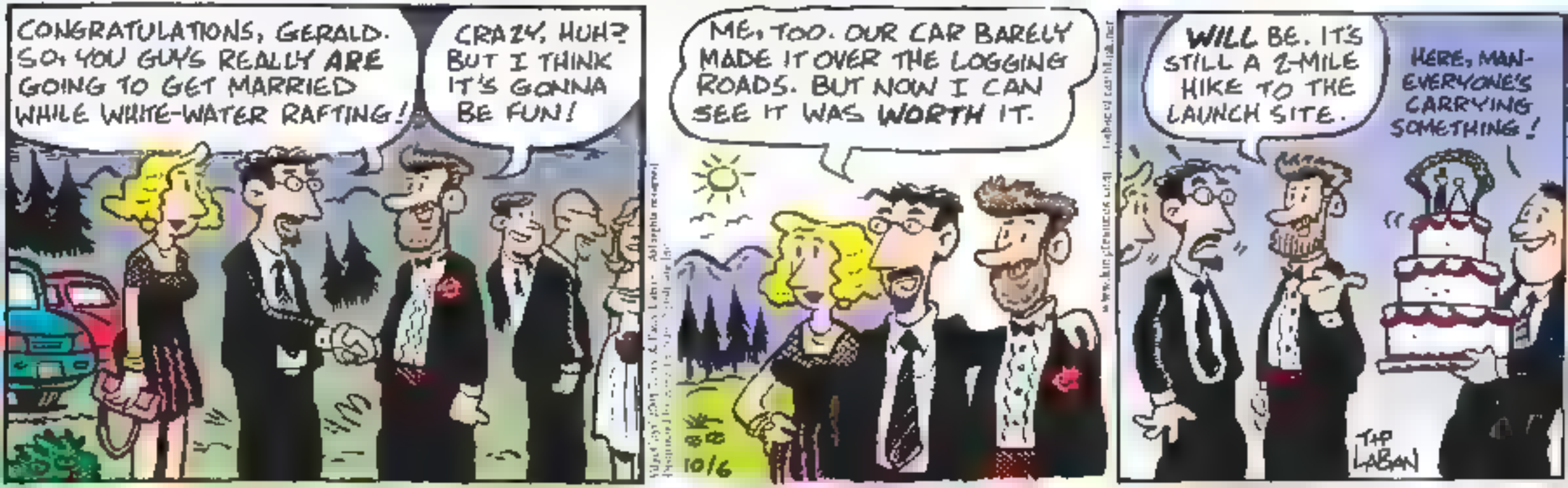
GERALD AND MARTHA ARE GETTING MARRIED!
BLACK INK ON LINEN CARDSTOCK JUST DOESN'T MAKE IT ANYMORE?
TOM LARSON
"ALL ABOARD" FOR GERALD & MARTHA'S WEDDING!

WOW! GERALD AND MARTHA ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING!
ONE OF THOSE "NONTRADITIONAL" WEDDINGS, HUH?
I'M SURPRISED MARTHA'S FOLKS WENT FOR IT. THEY ALWAYS SEEMED KIND OF CONSERVATIVE.
10/2
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S BEEN SOME COMPROMISE.
"BLACK LIFEJACKETS ARE REQUESTED."
THE LABRAM


GOING TO A WEDDING THAT TAKES PLACE WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING SOUNDS COOL, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE A HASSLE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BUY SPECIAL GEAR, DRIVE TO A REMOTE AREA, AND DEAL WITH EVERYTHING FROM BAD WEATHER TO BUGS!
10/3
IT'S A LOT TO ASK, YOU KNOW?
WE'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO DECORATE THIS PIECE OF RUBBER FOR THE BRIDE TO GLUE TO HER WETSUIT.


I'M CHECKING OUT GERALD AND MARTHA'S WEDDING WEBSITE.
10/4
THERE'S PICTURES OF THE LOCATION...LINKS TO PLACES TO STAY...DOWNLOADS OF THEIR FAVORITE SONGS... PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING YOU'D WANT TO KNOW.
TRY THAT ONE!
"OUR LOVE: THE VIDEO"
WHOA! THAT'S A LITTLE MORE THAN I WANT TO KNOW!
TIPLABAN


THE LABAN
I'M CHECKING OUT GERALD AND MARTHA'S WEDDING REGISTRY.
WHERE DID THEY REGISTER?
ACTUALLY, THEY REGISTERED AT 15 DIFFERENT STORES. WE'RE ALSO INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A FUND FOR THEIR VACATION HOUSE.
10/6
WOW! HOW SHAMELESS CAN YOU GET?
OR, IF WE PREFER, WE CAN AUTHORIZE THEM TO MAKE WITHDRAWALS DIRECTLY FROM OUR CHECKING ACCOUNT...


CONGRATULATIONS, GERALD. SO, YOU GUYS REALLY ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING!
CRAZY, HUH? BUT I THINK IT'S GONNA BE FUN!
ME, TOO. OUR CAR BARELY MADE IT OVER THE LOGGING ROADS. BUT NOW I CAN SEE IT WAS WORTH IT.
10/6
WILL BE. IT'S STILL A 2-MILE HIKE TO THE LAUNCH SITE.
HERE, MAN- EVERYONE'S CARRYING SOMETHING!
TAP LABAN

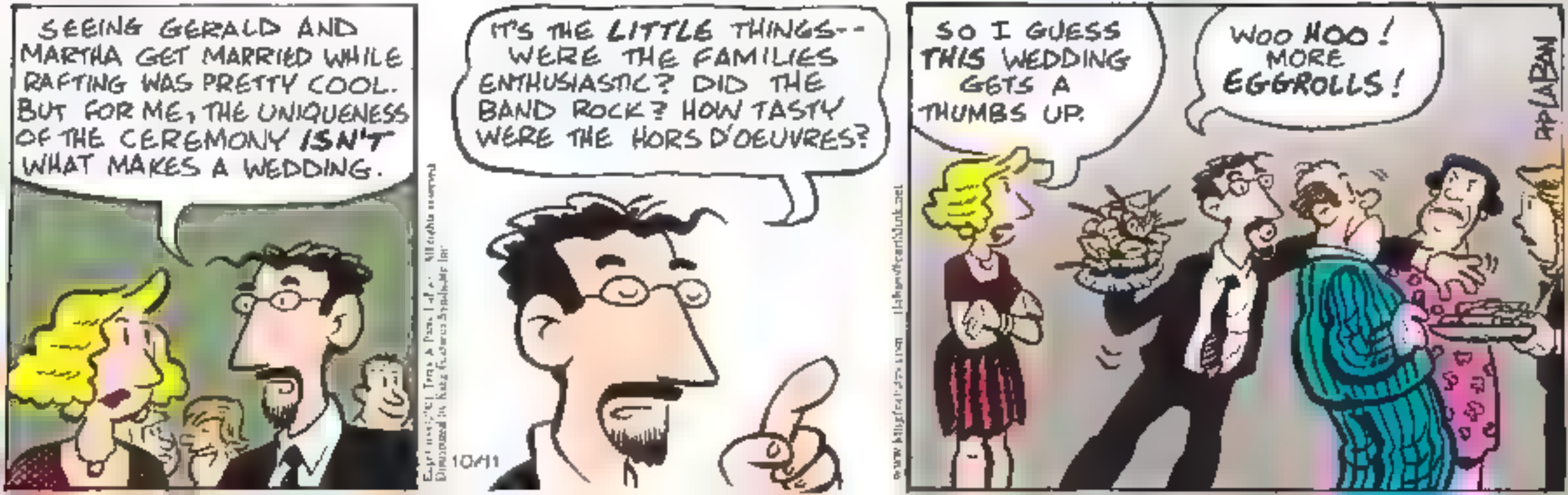
I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED A WEDDING PERFORMED WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING TO BE SO FORMAL.
THEY'VE GOT COCKTAILS, CHAMBER MUSIC, WHITE TABLE-CLOTHS--THE WHOLE PACKAGE.
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TO START.
ABBY AND LEN ARDIN? YOU'LL BE IN RAFT #15.
TOMLABON

HI! WE'RE MIKE AND CARLA.
ABBY AND LEN. CAN YOU BELIEVE THESE GUYS ARE GETTING MARRIED WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING?
Gerald and Martha's Wedding

I MEAN, WE'VE SEEN SOME OFF-THE-WALL WEDDINGS BEFORE, BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
I KNOW!..
Gerald and Martha's Wedding

...THE FIRST TIME WE WENT TO ONE, WE WERE IMPRESSED, TOO.
OF COURSE, THEY HAD BIGGER RAFTS.
Gerald and Martha's Wedding
TAPLABAN 10/7

GERALD IS JUST ABOUT TO PLACE THE RING ON MARTHA'S FINGER!
Gerald and Martha's Wedding
THE WATER'S GETTING ROUGHER! I HOPE HE DOESN'T DROP IT!
OH MY GOSH! THEY JUST GOT HIT WITH A HUGE WAVE!!
ALL RIGHT! HE'S STILL GOT THE RING!
BRIDE OVERBOARD!
TOO BAD HE WASN'T HOLDING ON TO MARTHA.
10/10

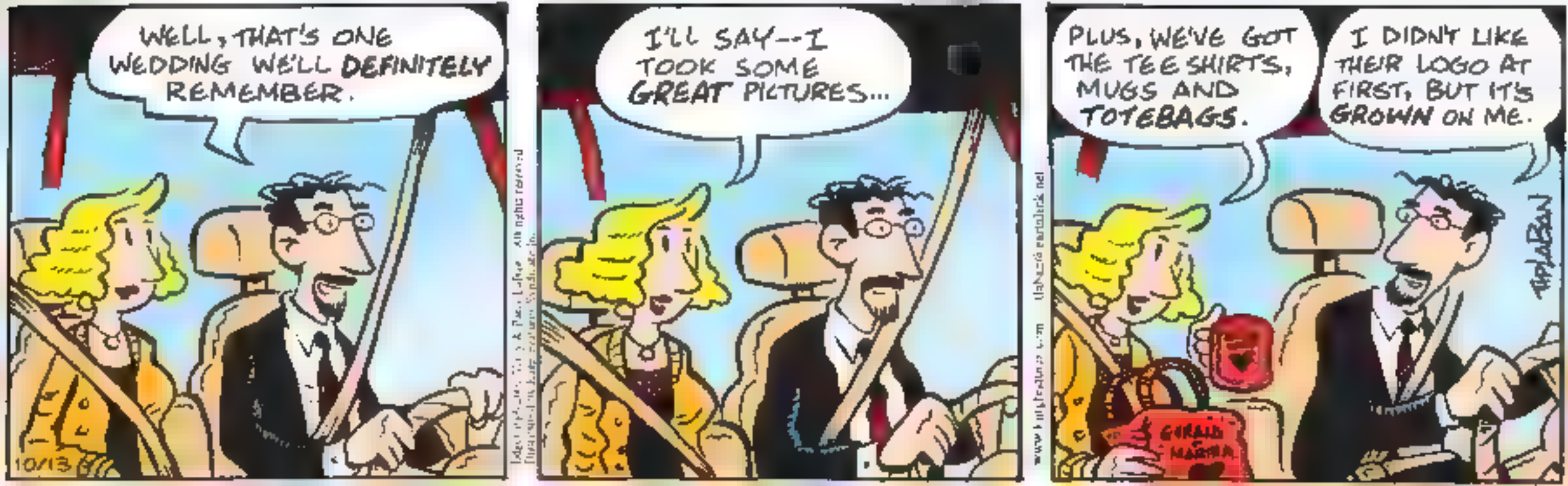

SEEING GERALD AND MARTHA GET MARRIED WHILE RAFTING WAS PRETTY COOL. BUT FOR ME, THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CEREMONY ISN'T WHAT MAKES A WEDDING.
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS-- WERE THE FAMILIES ENTHUSIASTIC? DID THE BAND ROCK? HOW TASTY WERE THE HORS D'OEUVRES?
10/11
SO I GUESS THIS WEDDING GETS A THUMBS UP.
WOO HOO! MORE EGGROLLS!
PRIAPIAN

YOU GUYS WANNA SAY SOMETHING TO GERALD AND MARTHA?
WELL-- I THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE THEY GOT MARRIED WHILE RAFTING.
10.12.01

BECAUSE THAT'S LIKE MARRIAGE ITSELF--EVEN WHEN IT'S GOING SMOOTHLY, YOU'VE GOTTA WATCH OUT FOR THE RAPIDS.
BUT YOU'LL GET THROUGH 'EM IF YOU WORK TOGETHER!
10.12.01

AND IT GETS EVEN BETTER WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR "CREW"!
ZOOM IN HERE ON OUR "CHIEF PETTY OFFICER" COLIN!
10.12.01

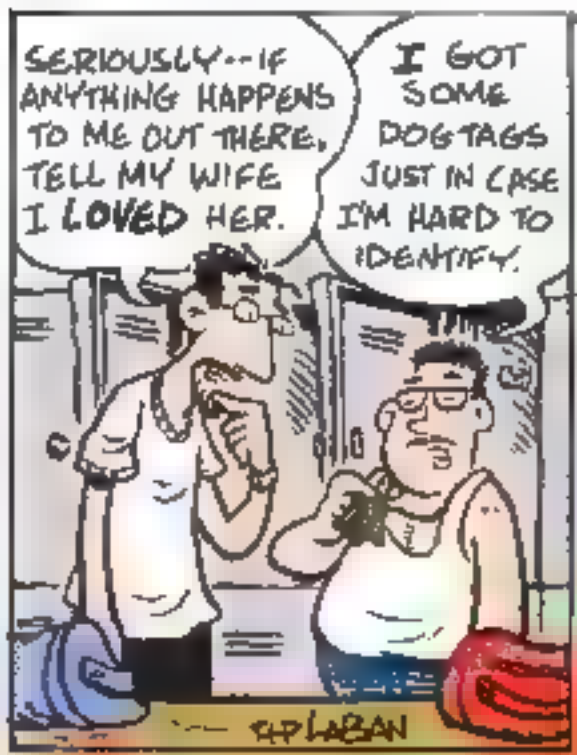
CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW BIG HE IS?
Y'KNOW, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO EDIT THE HECK OUT OF THIS THING...

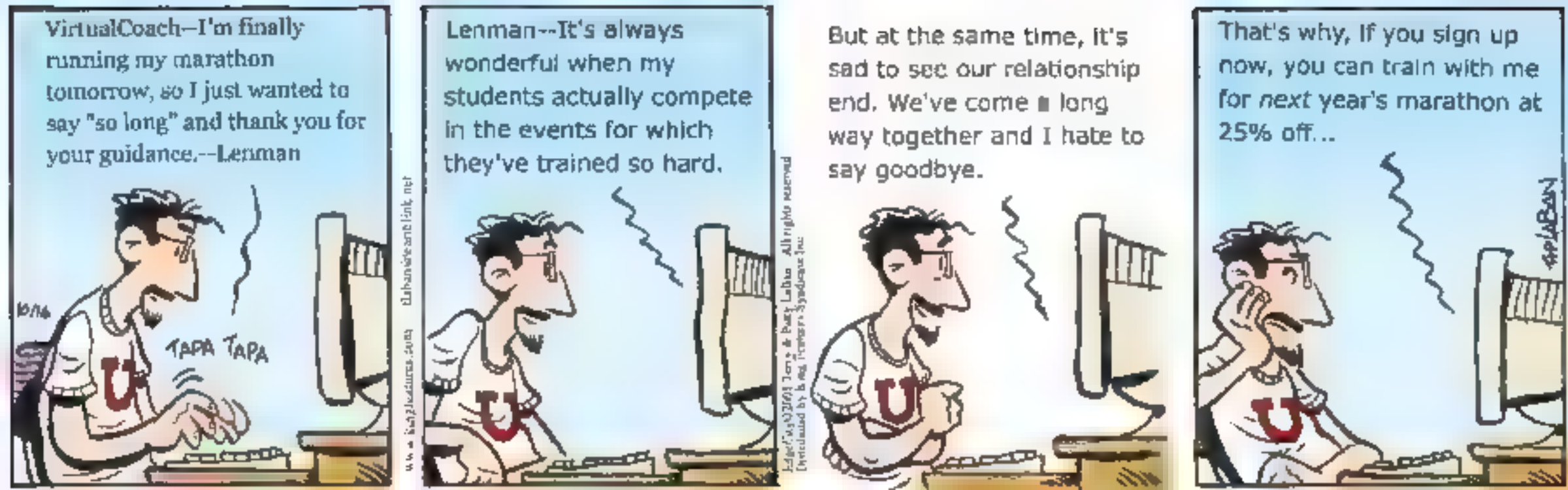

WELL, THAT'S ONE WEDDING WE'LL DEFINITELY REMEMBER.
10/13
I'LL SAY--I TOOK SOME GREAT PICTURES...
PLUS, WE'VE GOT THE TEE SHIRTS, MUGS AND TOTEBAGS.
I DIDN'T LIKE THEIR LOGO AT FIRST, BUT IT'S GROWN ON ME.
GERALD & MARTHA

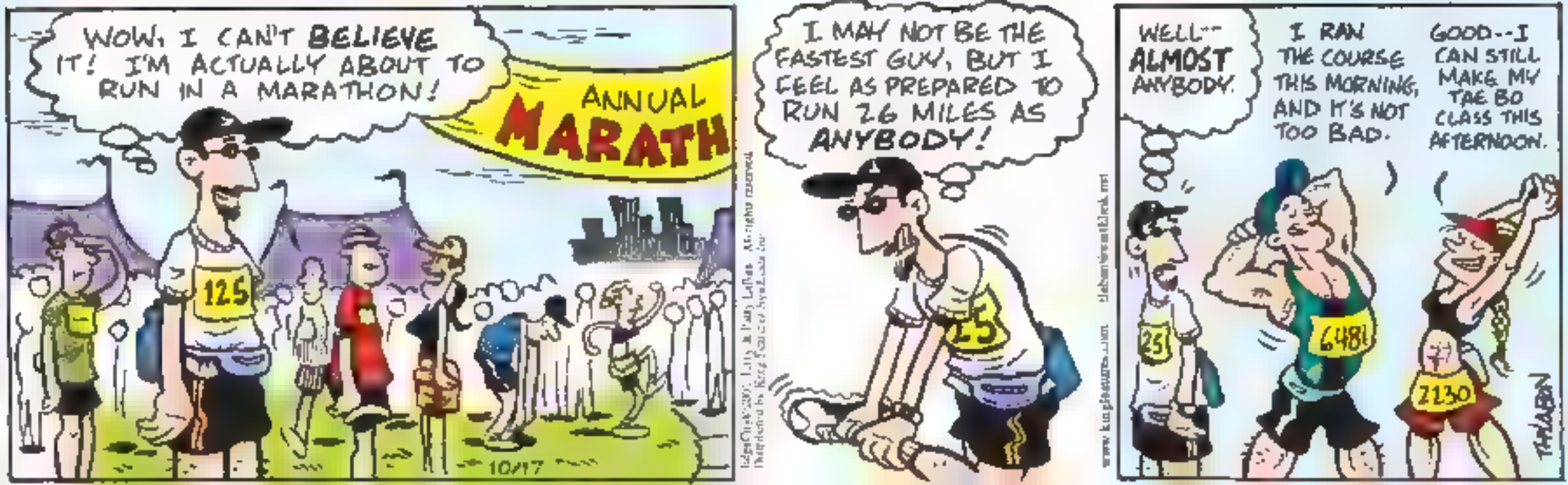
SO, TUBBY--IT'S MARATHON TIME. READY TO BUY ME A TRIP TO VEGAS?
HA! I'LL BE CHECKING INTO CEASARS PALACE BEFORE YOU'RE EVEN OVER THE FINISH LINE!

THIS IS ONE BET YOU'LL WISH YOU NEVER MADE!
TALK IS CHEAP! I'M A LEAN, MEAN RUNNING MACHINE!

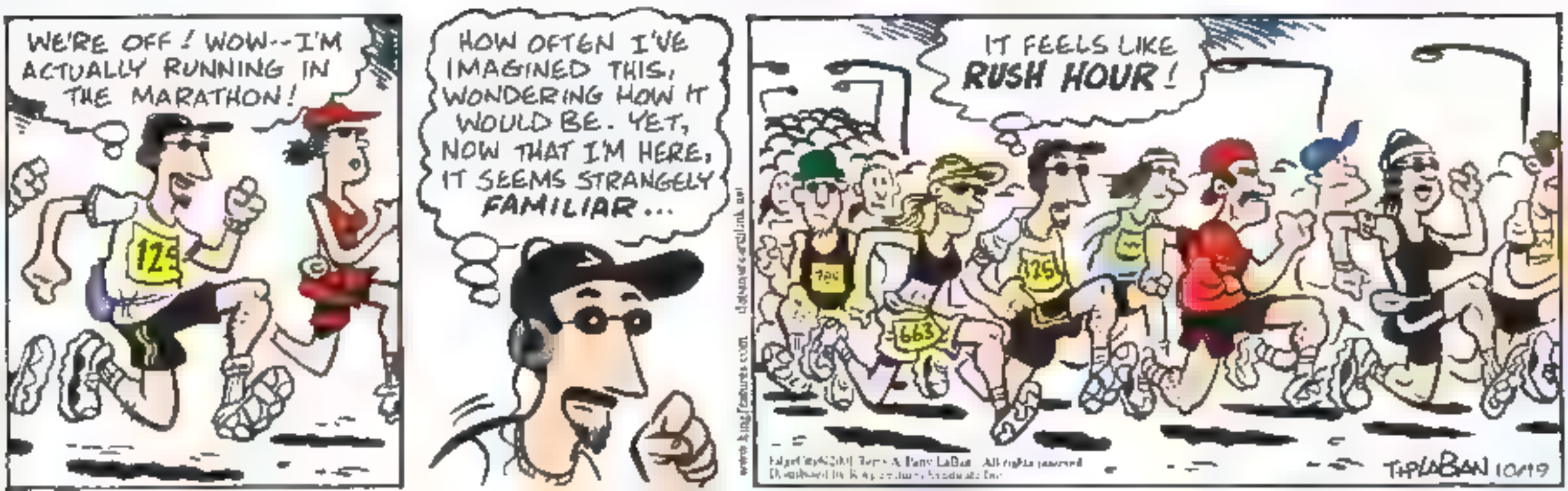
GRRR!
WOOF!
10/15

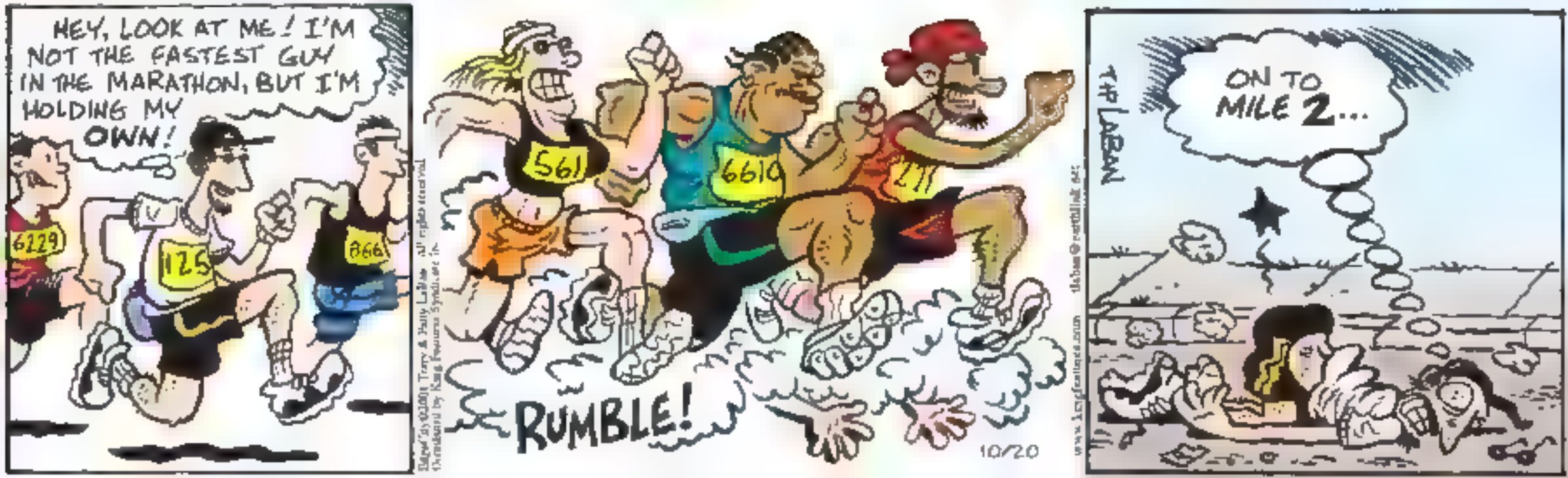

SERIOUSLY--IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME OUT THERE, TELL MY WIFE I LOVED HER.
I GOT SOME DOGTAGS JUST IN CASE I'M HARD TO IDENTIFY.
— SLP LABAN

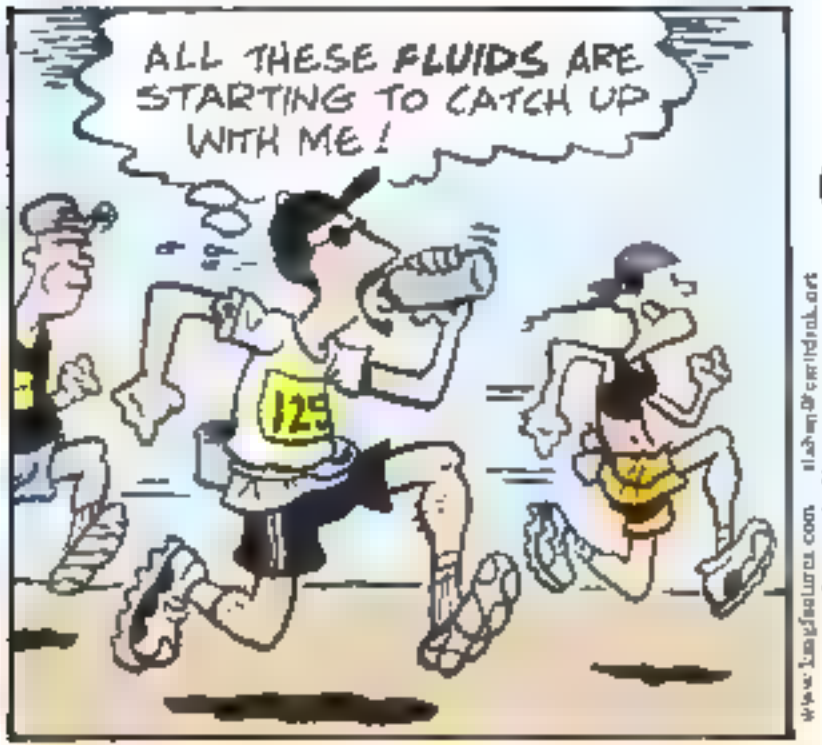

VirtualCoach--I'm finally running my marathon tomorrow, so I just wanted to say "so long" and thank you for your guidance.--Lenman
TAPA TAPA
Lenman--It's always wonderful when my students actually compete in the events for which they've trained so hard.
But at the same time, it's sad to see our relationship end. We've come a long way together and I hate to say goodbye.
That's why, if you sign up now, you can train with me for *next* year's marathon at 25% off...


WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I'M ACTUALLY ABOUT TO RUN IN A MARATHON!
ANNUAL MARATH
125
10/17
I MAY NOT BE THE FASTEST GUY, BUT I FEEL AS PREPARED TO RUN 26 MILES AS ANYBODY!
55
WELL-- ALMOST ANYBODY.
I RAN THE COURSE THIS MORNING, AND IT'S NOT TOO BAD.
GOOD--I CAN STILL MAKE MY TAE BO CLASS THIS AFTERNOON.
25
6481
2130
THABEN

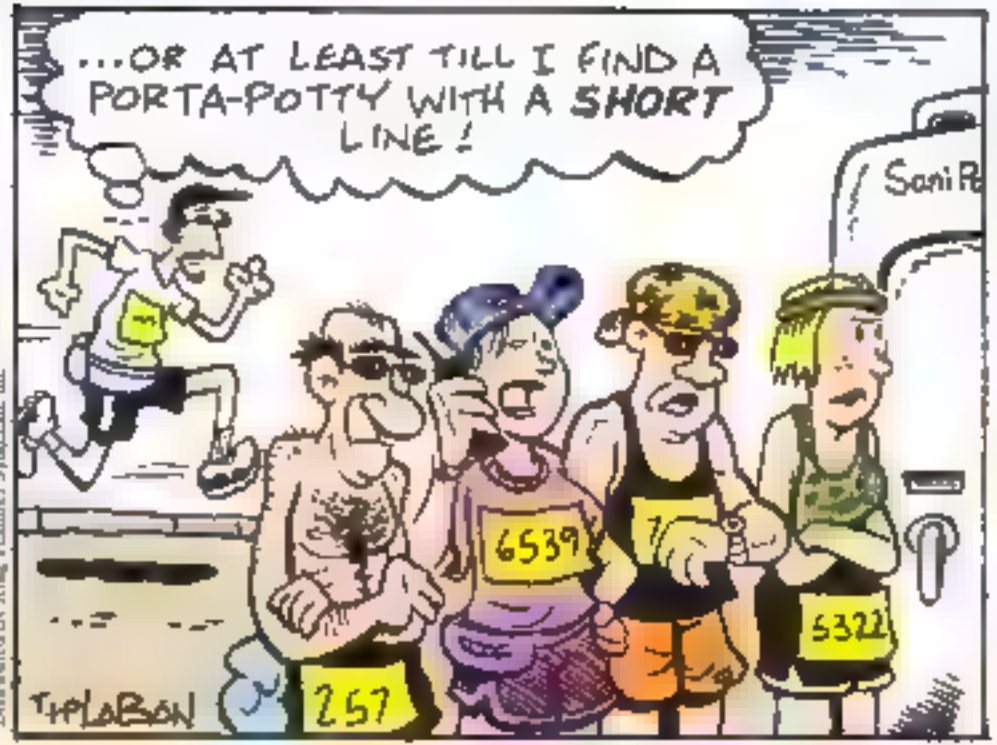
IT'S FUN TO SEE THE TOKENS PEOPLE CARRY WITH THEM IN THE MARATHON.
12
42
163
PEOPLE HAVE THEIR BOYFRIENDS' RINGS AROUND THEIR NECKS... THEIR WIVES' PHOTOS PINNED TO THEIR SHIRTS...
125
52
463
10/18
I GUESS THIS GUY HAS A LOT OF KIDS.
125
I LUV DAD!
GO DAD
THPLARSON

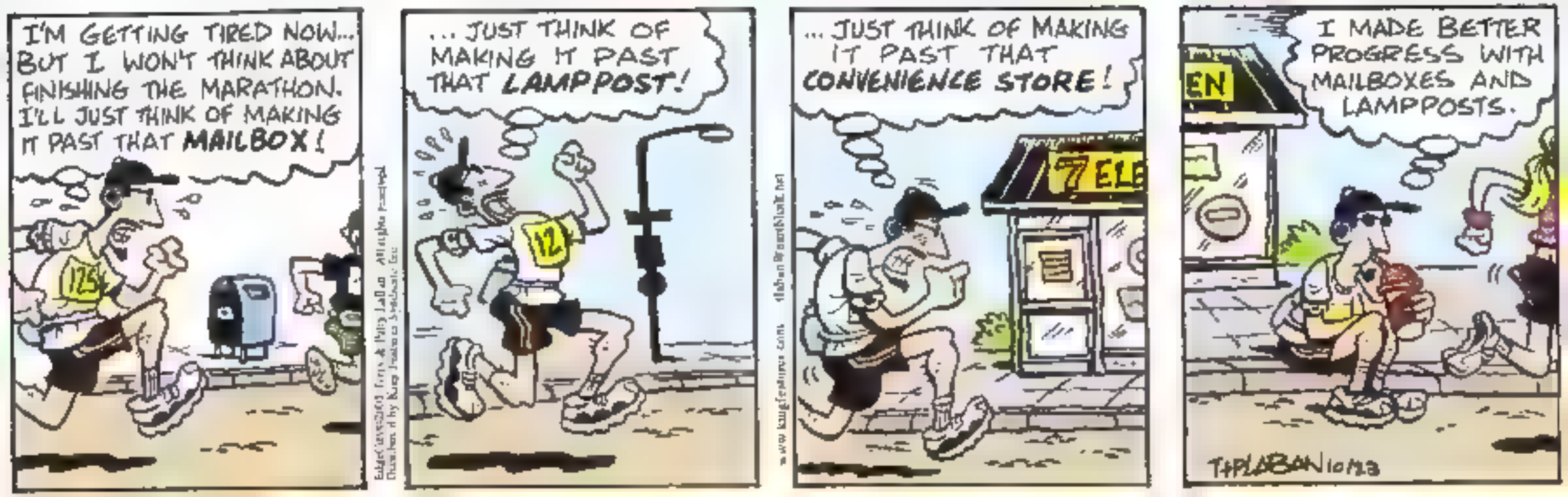

WE'RE OFF! WOW--I'M ACTUALLY RUNNING IN THE MARATHON!
HOW OFTEN I'VE IMAGINED THIS, WONDERING HOW IT WOULD BE. YET, NOW THAT I'M HERE, IT SEEMS STRANGELY FAMILIAR...
IT FEELS LIKE RUSH HOUR!
THPLABAN 10/19

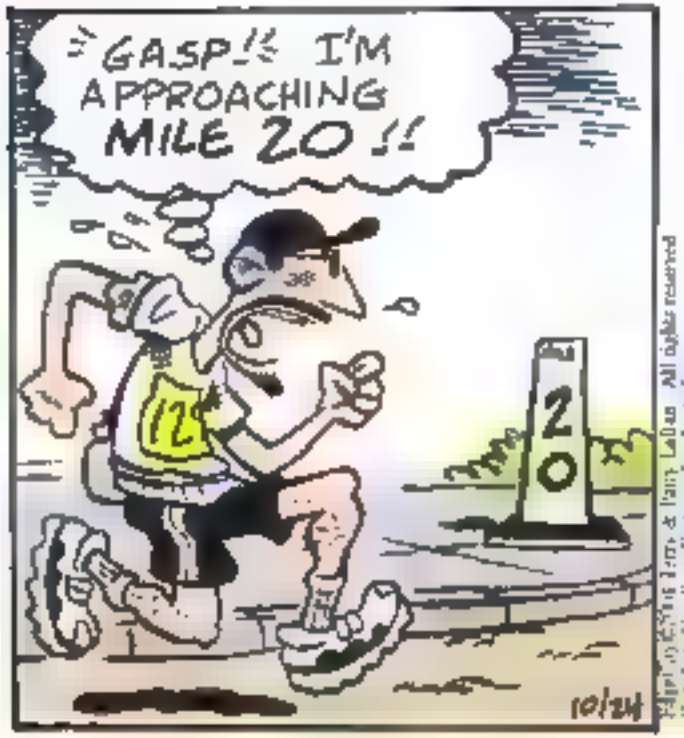

HEY, LOOK AT ME! I'M NOT THE FASTEST GUY IN THE MARATHON, BUT I'M HOLDING MY OWN!
6229
125
866
561
6619
RUMBLE!
10/20
ON TO MILE 2...
THE LABAN


ALL THESE FLUIDS ARE STARTING TO CATCH UP WITH ME!
129

BUT WHAT'S RUNNING A MARATHON ABOUT IF NOT DISCIPLINING YOUR BODY? I MUST PUSH ON AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!..
10/22

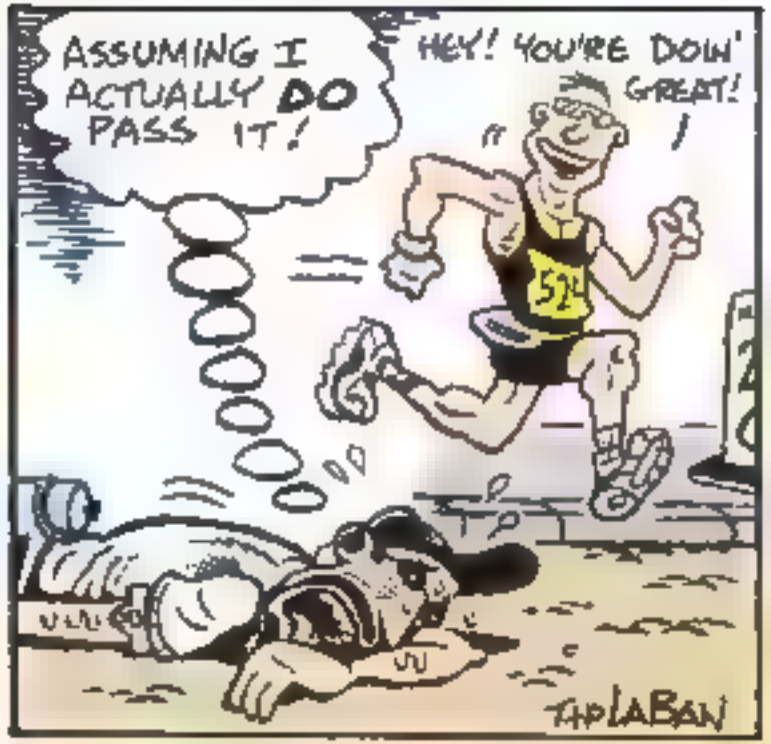

...OR AT LEAST TILL I FIND A PORTA-POTTY WITH A SHORT LINE!
6539
5322
257
TIPLABON

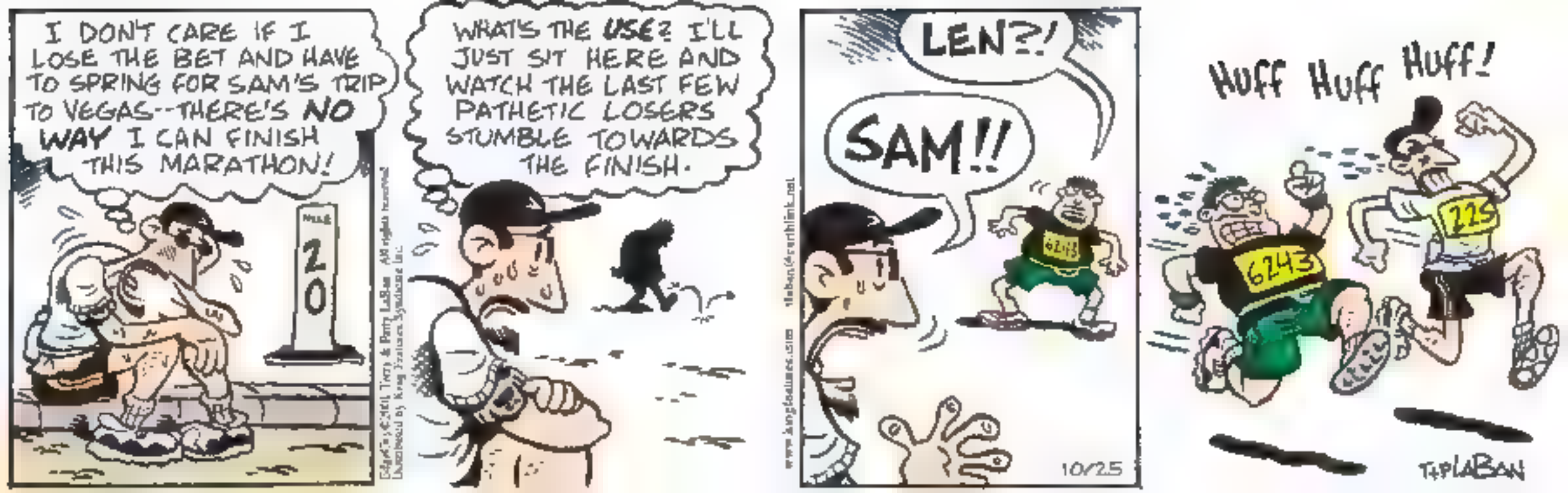

I'M GETTING TIRED NOW... BUT I WON'T THINK ABOUT FINISHING THE MARATHON. I'LL JUST THINK OF MAKING IT PAST THAT MAILBOX!
125
... JUST THINK OF MAKING IT PAST THAT LAMPPOST!
12
... JUST THINK OF MAKING IT PAST THAT CONVENIENCE STORE!
7 ELE
EN
I MADE BETTER PROGRESS WITH MAILBOXES AND LAMPPOSTS.
T+PLABAN 10/13

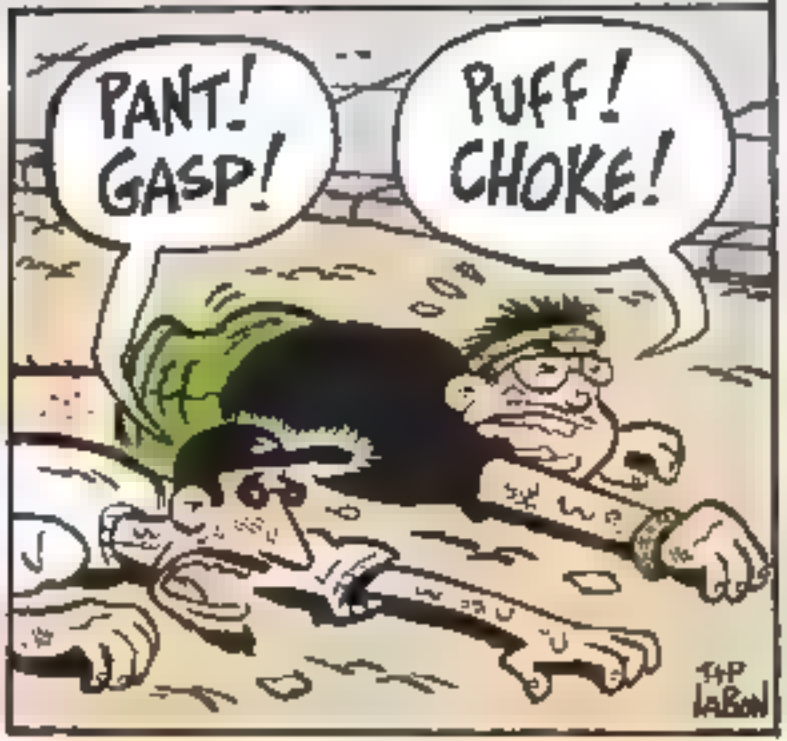

GASP!! I'M APPROACHING MILE 20!!
125
20
10/24

IN TRAINING, 20 MILES WAS AS FAR AS I EVER RAN! I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'LL COPE WHEN I'M PAST THIS POINT!

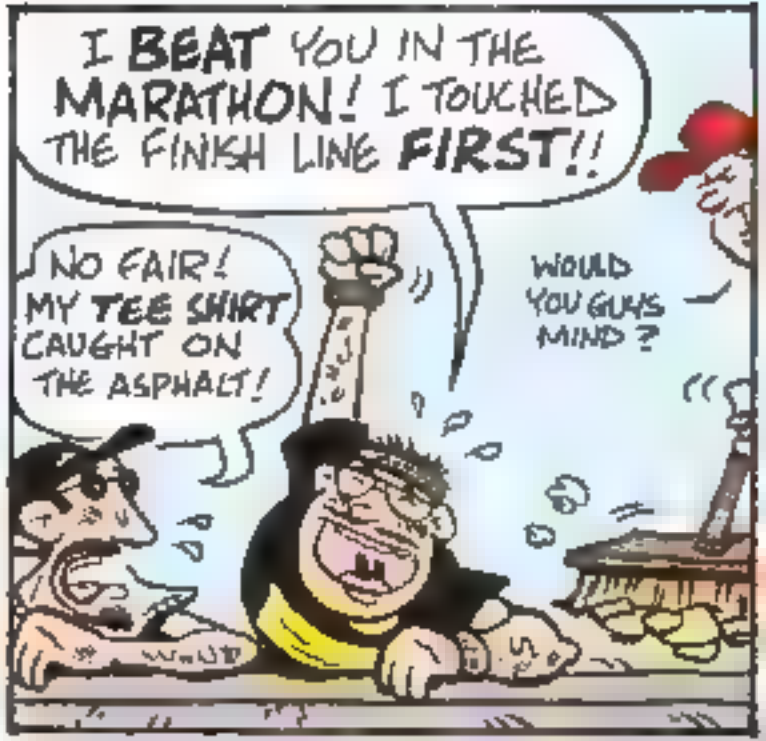
125
STUMBLE!

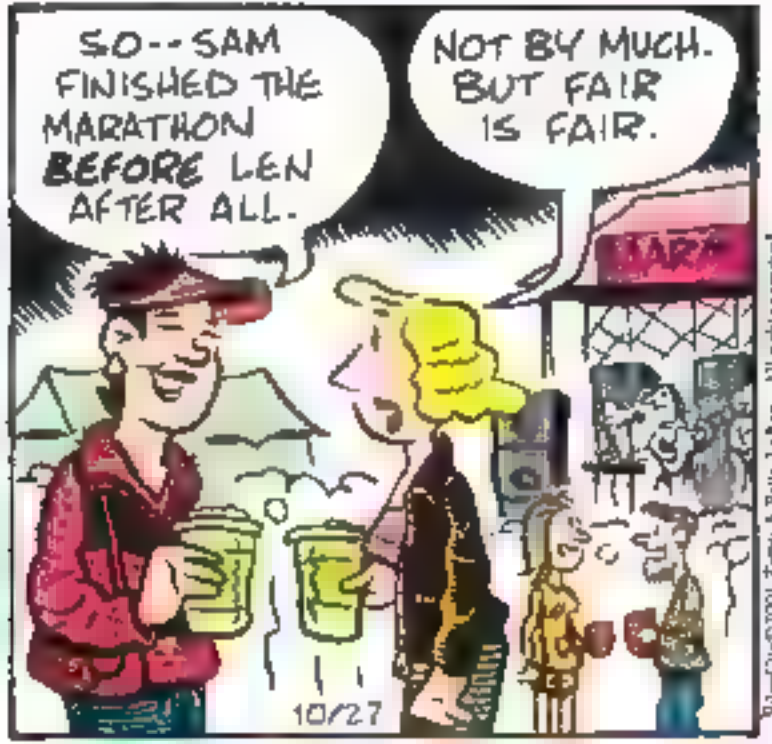

ASSUMING I ACTUALLY DO PASS IT!
HEY! YOU'RE DOIN' GREAT!
52
TED LABAN


I DON'T CARE IF I LOSE THE BET AND HAVE TO SPRING FOR SAM'S TRIP TO VEGAS--THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FINISH THIS MARATHON!
MILE
20
WHAT'S THE USE? I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH THE LAST FEW PATHETIC LOSERS STUMBLE TOWARDS THE FINISH.
LEN?!
SAM!!
6243
10/25
HUFF HUFF HUFF!
6243
225
T+PLABAN

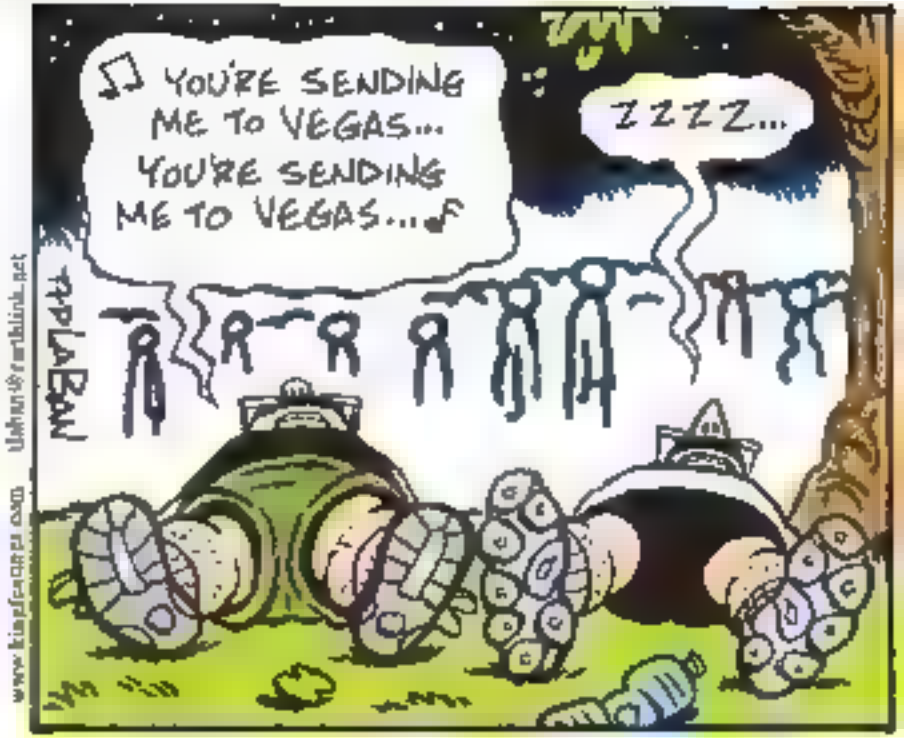

PANT! GASP!
PUFF! CHOKE!
THE LABON

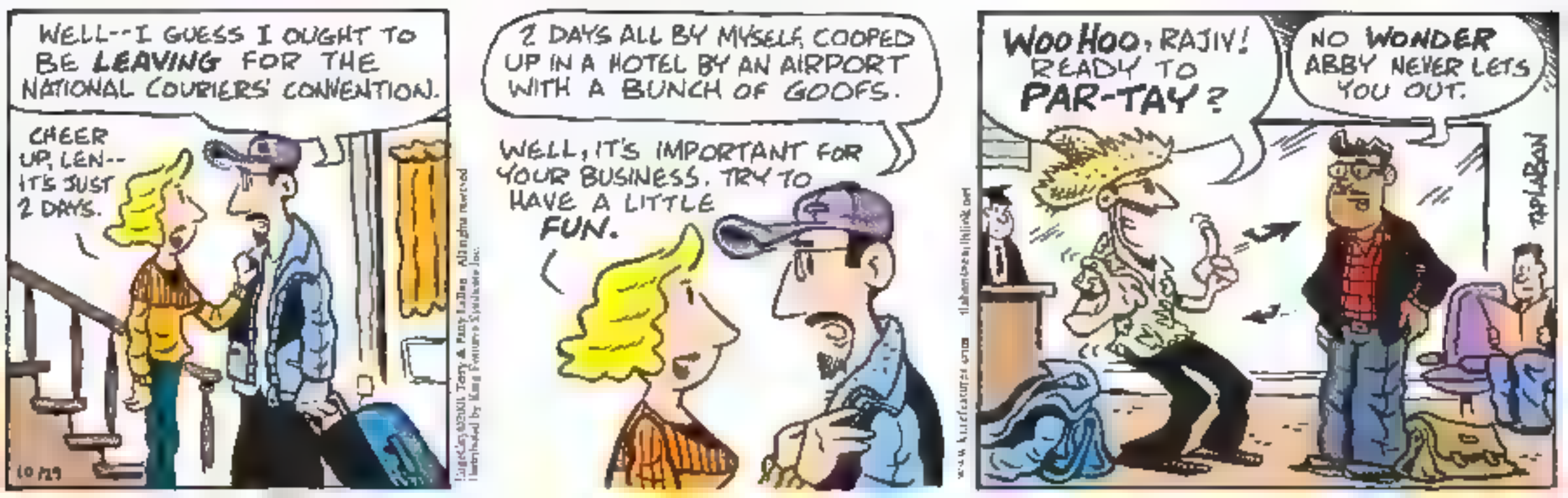
I DID IT!!
10/26


I BEAT YOU IN THE MARATHON! I TOUCHED THE FINISH LINE FIRST!!
NO FAIR! MY TEE SHIRT CAUGHT ON THE ASPHALT!
WOULD YOU GUYS MIND?

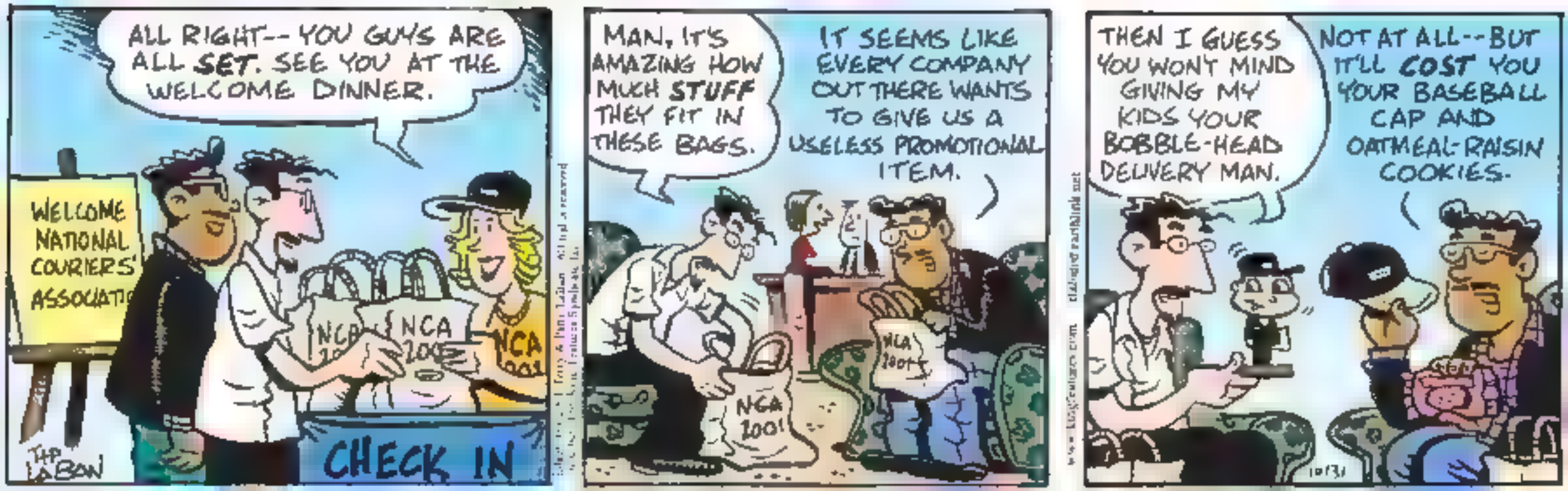

SO--SAM FINISHED THE MARATHON BEFORE LEN AFTER ALL.
NOT BY MUCH. BUT FAIR IS FAIR.
10/27

WELL, I'M JUST GLAD IT'S OVER AND WE CAN HAVE OUR HUSBANDS BACK.
YEAH. I'M PROUD OF THEM, THOUGH. I HOPE THEY CAN FORGET THEIR BET FOR A WHILE AND ENJOY THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT.


YOU'RE SENDING ME TO VEGAS... YOU'RE SENDING ME TO VEGAS...
ZZZZ...
PaulLaBau


WELL--I GUESS I OUGHT TO BE LEAVING FOR THE NATIONAL COURIERS' CONVENTION.
CHEER UP, LEN-- IT'S JUST 2 DAYS.
10/29
2 DAYS ALL BY MYSELF, COOPED UP IN A HOTEL BY AN AIRPORT WITH A BUNCH OF GOOFS.
WELL, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOUR BUSINESS. TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
WOO HOO, RAJIV! READY TO PAR-TAY?
NO WONDER ABBY NEVER LETS YOU OUT.
TAPLABAN

MAYBE BEFORE WE ARRIVE AT THE NATIONAL COURIERS' CONVENTION WE SHOULD STRATEGIZE WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH.
WE'LL GO TO THE FREE BRUNCH, HIT THE POOL, THEN HEAD FOR THE HOTEL BAR WHEN THE SEMINARS END AND LET THE SALESMEN BUY US DRINKS.
THEN, AFTER THE AWARDS BANQUET, WE HOOK UP WITH THOSE GUYS FROM OHIO AND STAY OUT TILL THE CLUBS CLOSE.
10/30
I MEANT BUSINESS-WISE.
AW, WE'LL JUST SCHMOOZE AND PASS OUT CARDS. THE USUAL.
TAPLARAN


ALL RIGHT-- YOU GUYS ARE ALL SET. SEE YOU AT THE WELCOME DINNER.
WELCOME NATIONAL COURIERS' ASSOCIATI
NCA 2001
NCA 2001
NCA
CHECK IN
THE LABAN
MAN, IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH STUFF THEY FIT IN THESE BAGS.
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY COMPANY OUT THERE WANTS TO GIVE US A USELESS PROMOTIONAL ITEM.
NCA 2001
NCA 2001
THEN I GUESS YOU WON'T MIND GIVING MY KIDS YOUR BOBBLE-HEAD DELIVERY MAN.
NOT AT ALL--BUT IT'LL COST YOU YOUR BASEBALL CAP AND OATMEAL-RAISIN COOKIES.

HEY, LEN AND RAJIV! HOW WAS YOUR YEAR?
PRETTY MEDIOCRE, I'M SORRY TO SAY. HOW 'BOUT YOU?
WELL, OUR BEST CUSTOMER WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN MARCH, AND IN MAY I FOUND OUT MY ACCOUNTANT EMBEZZLED HALF OUR ASSETS.
WE DECLARED BANKRUPTCY IN JULY. IF NO ONE HERE HIRES ME, I'M GOING TO FAKE MY DEATH AND DISAPPEAR INTO MEXICO.
LEN! RAJIV! HOW WAS YOUR YEAR?
PRETTY GOOD, ACTUALLY.

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL COURIERS' ASSOCIATION.
I'D LIKE TO PRESENT MIKE DRISCOLL OF DELIVEREX, THE COUNTRY'S FASTEST-GROWING COURIER SERVICE AND SPONSOR OF TONIGHT'S DINNER.
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
GOOD EVENING. Y'KNOW. DELIVEREX ISN'T ONLY INTERESTED IN MOVING INTO YOUR MARKETS AND TAKING OVER YOUR BUSINESS...
IF WE EAT THEIR CHICKEN, WILL THEY OWN OUR SOULS?
I HOPE NOT-- I'M ALMOST DONE.

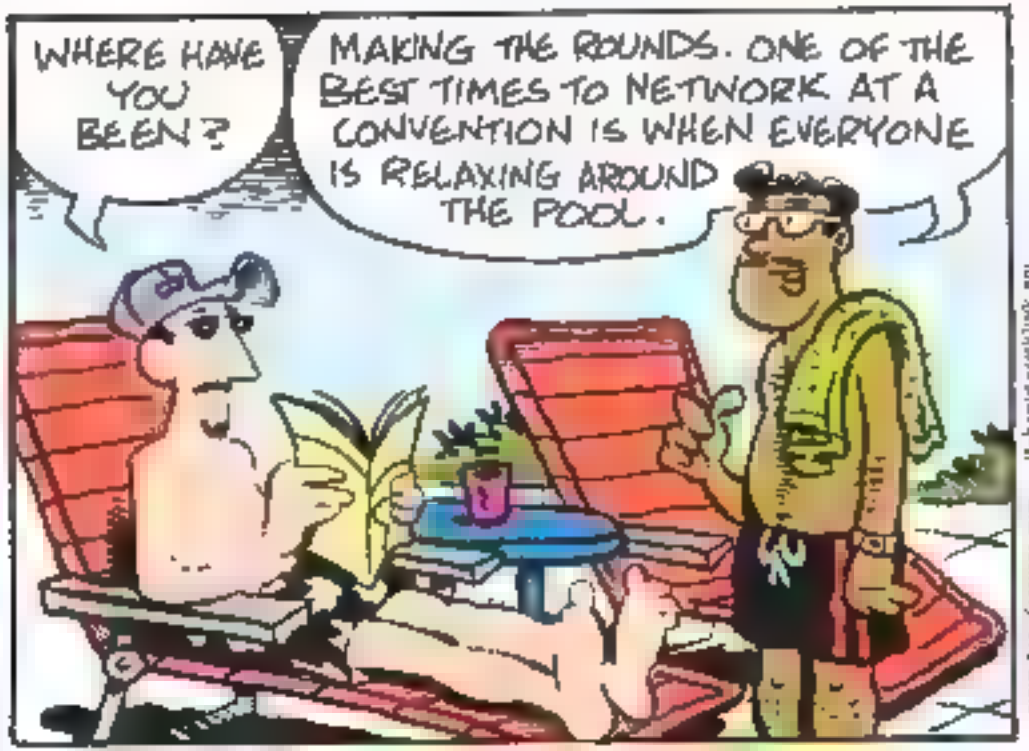
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I JUST CALLED ABBY.
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YEAH--THOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT, I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY ABOUT BEING HERE HAVING A GREAT TIME WHILE SHE'S AT HOME ON HER OWN.
IS LEN OK?
YEAH--BUT I FEEL KIND OF GUILTY ABOUT HOW MUCH FUN I'M HAVING WHILE HE'S GONE.

YOU'RE NOT GOING DOWN TO THE SEMINARS?
NOPE. I'M GOING DOWN TO THE POOL.
TED LABAN

EVERY YEAR AT THIS CONVENTION, I GO TO THE SEMINARS BECAUSE I THINK I SHOULD, AND THEY END UP BEING A WASTE OF TIME.
11/5

WHY SHOULDN'T I DO SOMETHING FUN INSTEAD? YOU'RE SINGLE--YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FEW CHANCES I GET TO RELAX ON MY OWN!

I NEEDED YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND YOU GAVE ME "THE EYE."
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON "IMPROVING MORALE THROUGH HYGIENE."
TED LABAN


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
MAKING THE ROUNDS. ONE OF THE BEST TIMES TO NETWORK AT A CONVENTION IS WHEN EVERYONE IS RELAXING AROUND THE POOL.

FOR INSTANCE, I JUST HAD A VERY INFORMATIVE TALK WITH SOMEONE FROM ONE OF THE GPS COMPANIES.
YOU MEAN THAT CURVY WOMAN WITH THE LONG, BROWN HAIR?
11/6

WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT?
THAT WE BOTH LIKE DANCING AND FOREIGN FILMS, AND THAT HER ROOM NUMBER IS 2234.
TPLABON

MAN, THE AWARDS BANQUET IS MY LEAST FAVORITE PART OF THE CONVENTION.
REALLY. IF YOU DON'T WIN ONE, IT'S UTTERLY BORING...
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

...AND IF YOU DO, BIG DEAL. IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOUR BOTTOM LINE.

...AND THE WINNER FOR "MOST PROMISING SMALL FIRM" IS LEADFOOT COURIERS...LEN ARDIN AND RAJIV PATEL!

CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
11/7
TED LABAN

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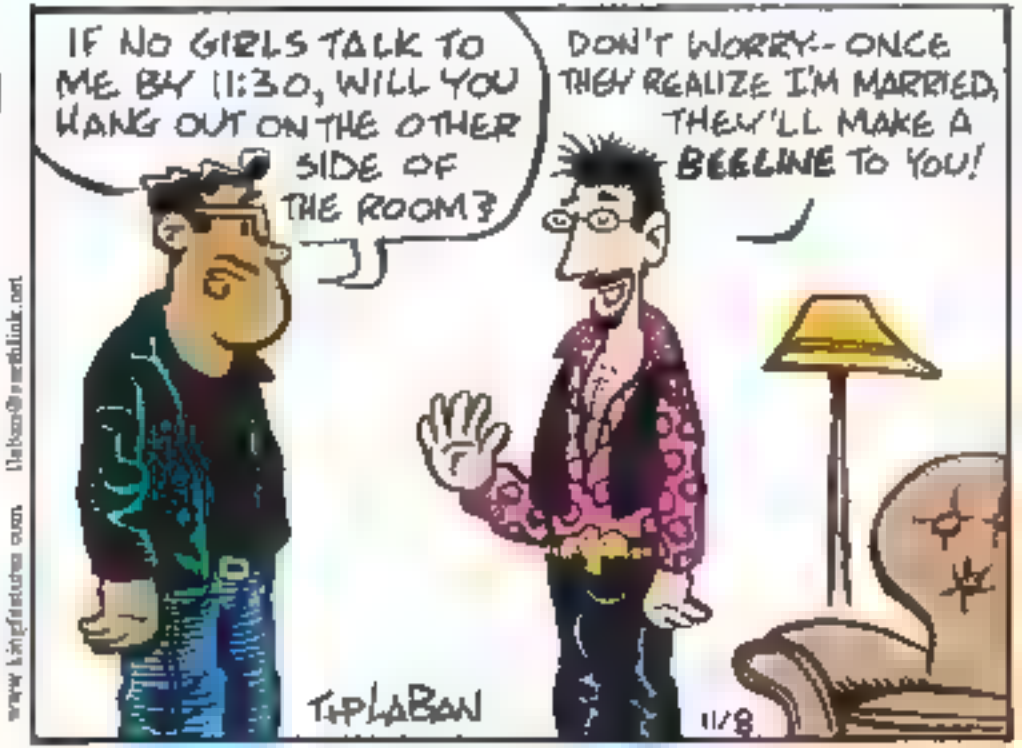
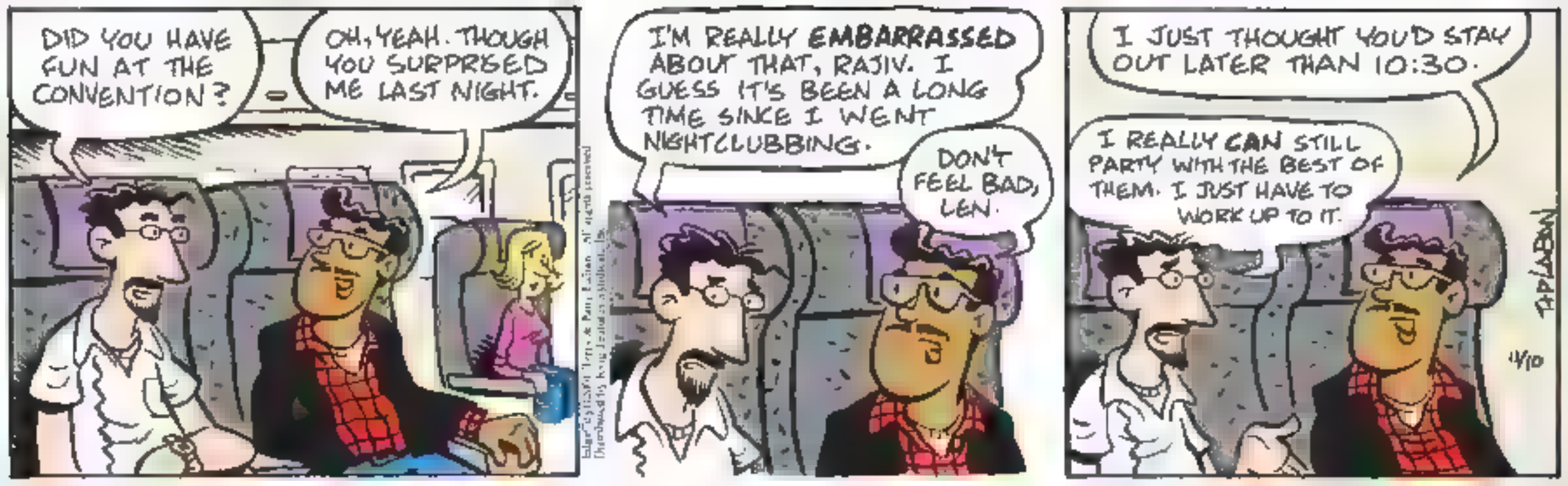


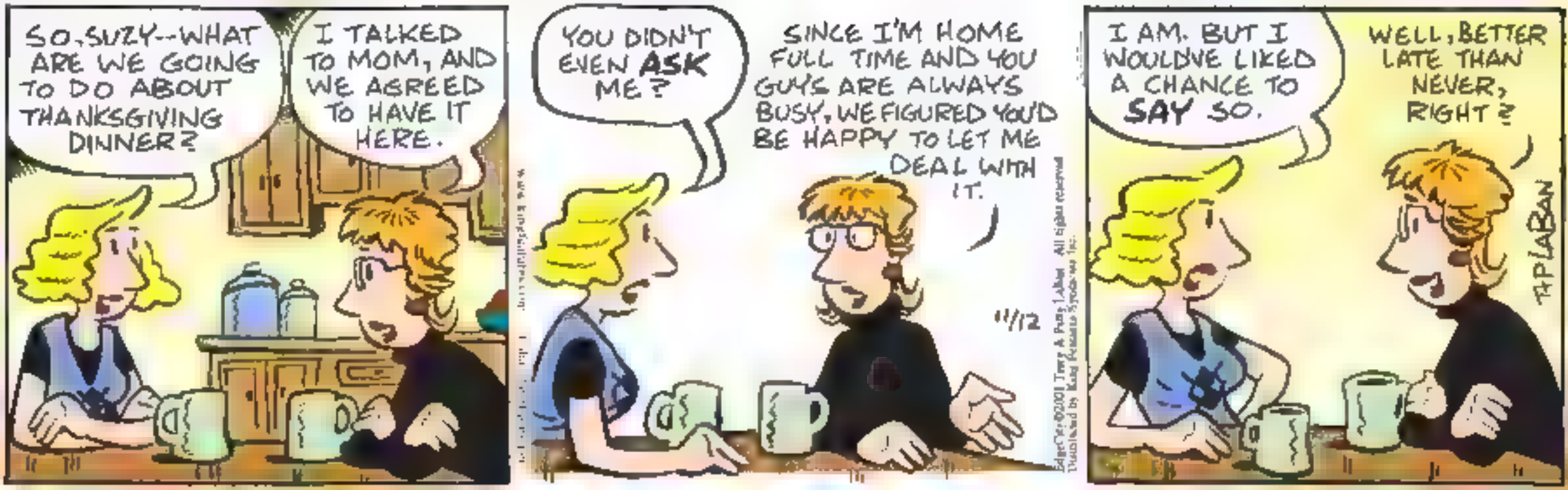
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, OK?
UH... OK!

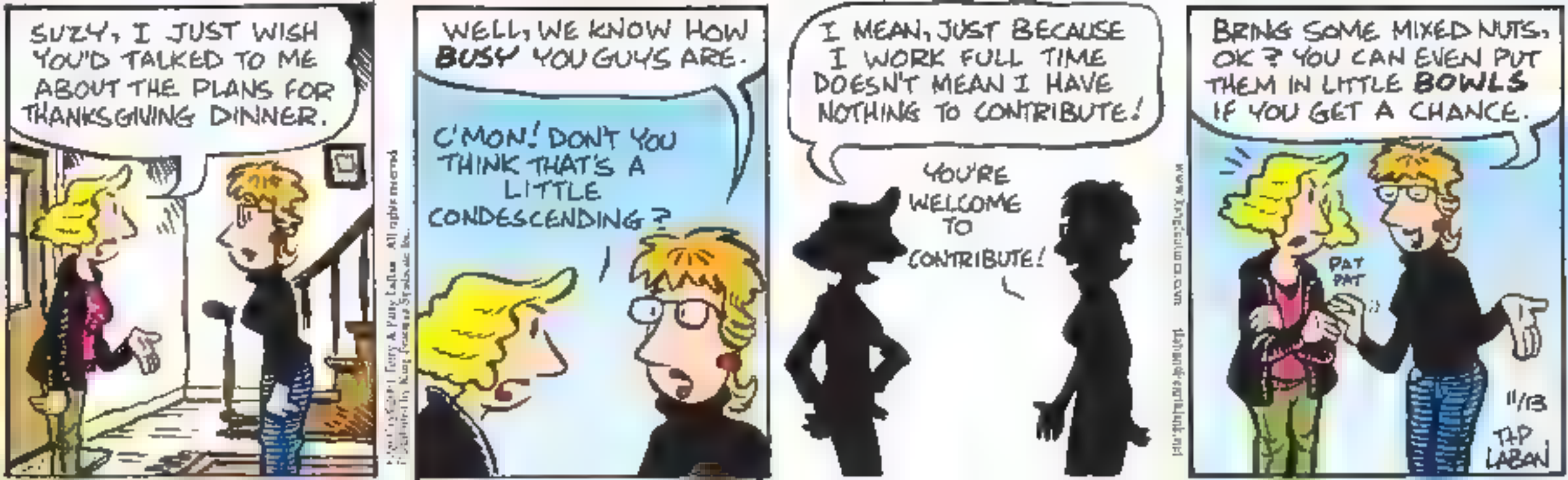
OMIGOSH, RAJIV! DID YOU SEE THE WAY SHE WAS LOOKING AT ME?

I'D HATE FOR ANYTHING TO HAPPEN AT THIS CONVENTION THAT I'D FEEL BAD ABOUT WHEN I GOT HOME. I SHOULD TELL HER I'M MARRIED RIGHT NOW!
11/9

SHE'S THE WAITRESS, LEN. ALL SHE CARES ABOUT IS WHETHER YOU WANT ANOTHER DRINK!
BETTER MAKE IT A COKE THIS TIME.
TOPLABON

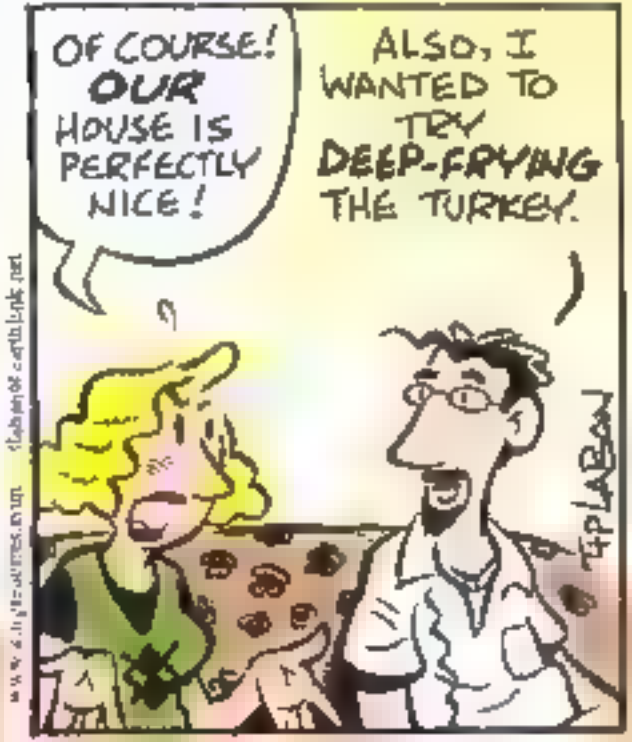

DID YOU HAVE FUN AT THE CONVENTION?
OH, YEAH. THOUGH YOU SURPRISED ME LAST NIGHT.
I'M REALLY EMBARRASSED ABOUT THAT, RAJIV. I GUESS IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I WENT NIGHTCLUBBING.
DON'T FEEL BAD, LEN.
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D STAY OUT LATER THAN 10:30.
I REALLY CAN STILL PARTY WITH THE BEST OF THEM. I JUST HAVE TO WORK UP TO IT.
4/10

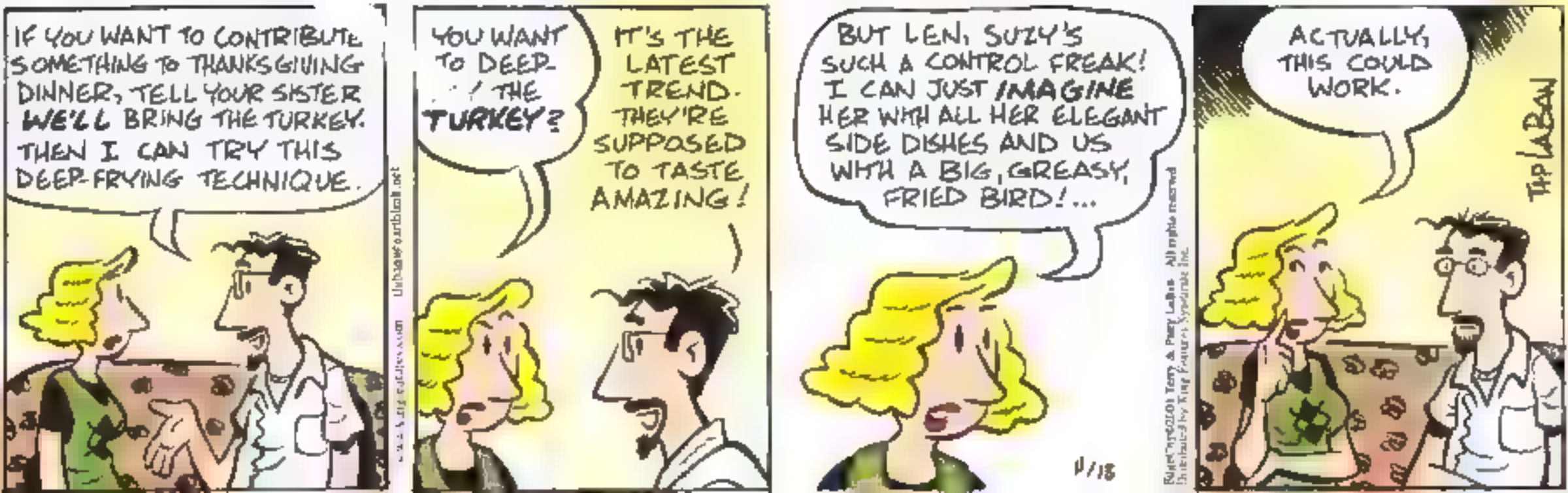

SO, SUZY--WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THANKSGIVING DINNER?
I TALKED TO MOM, AND WE AGREED TO HAVE IT HERE.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK ME?
SINCE I'M HOME FULL TIME AND YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS BUSY, WE FIGURED YOU'D BE HAPPY TO LET ME DEAL WITH IT.
11/12
I AM. BUT I WOULDVE LIKED A CHANCE TO SAY SO.
WELL, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT?
TAPLABAN

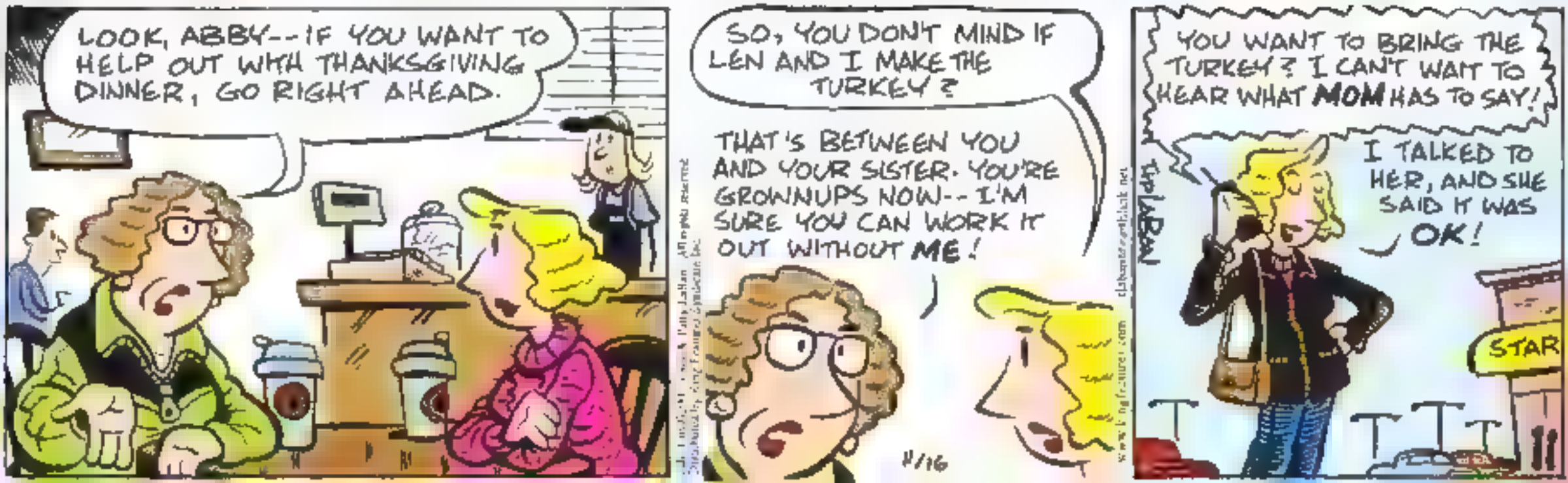

SUZY, I JUST WISH YOU'D TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE PLANS FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER.
WELL, WE KNOW HOW BUSY YOU GUYS ARE.
C'MON! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE CONDESCENDING?
I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE I WORK FULL TIME DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE!
BRING SOME MIXED NUTS, OK? YOU CAN EVEN PUT THEM IN LITTLE BOWLS IF YOU GET A CHANCE.
PAT PAT
11/13
TIP LABAN

MY SISTER AND MY MOM DECIDED TO HAVE THANKSGIVING DINNER AT MY SISTER'S WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ME!

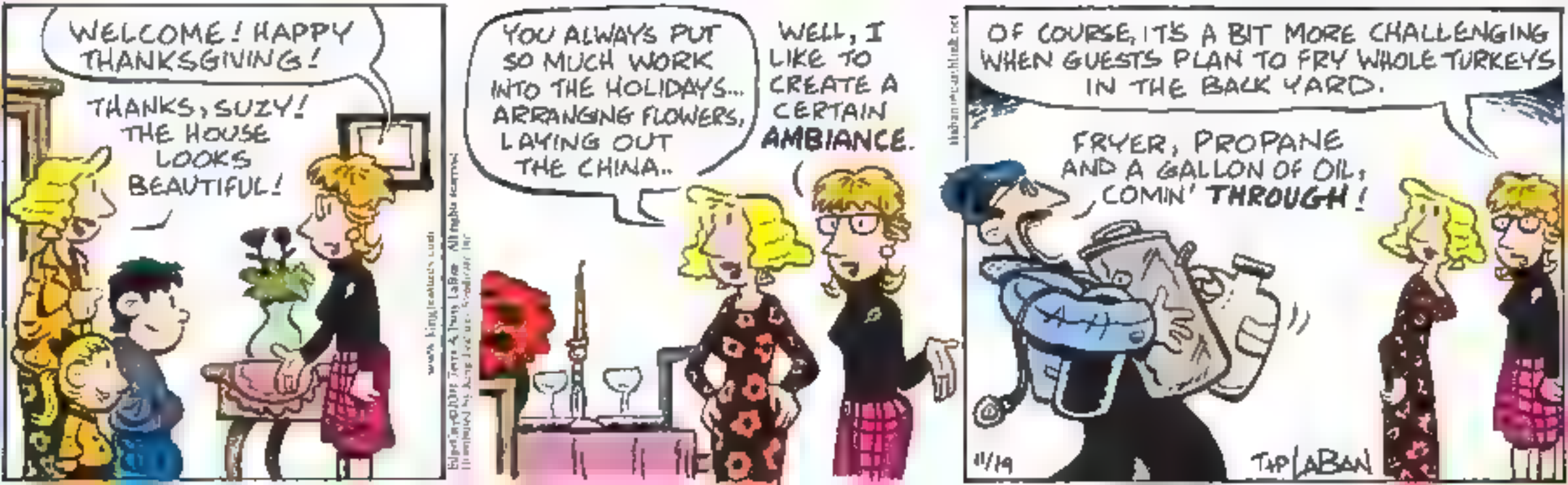
IT'S SO TYPICAL! SUZY'S ALWAYS DECIDED WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE, AND MY MOM'S JUST GONE ALONG WITH HER!
I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY TO HAVE THANKSGIVING HERE THIS YEAR.

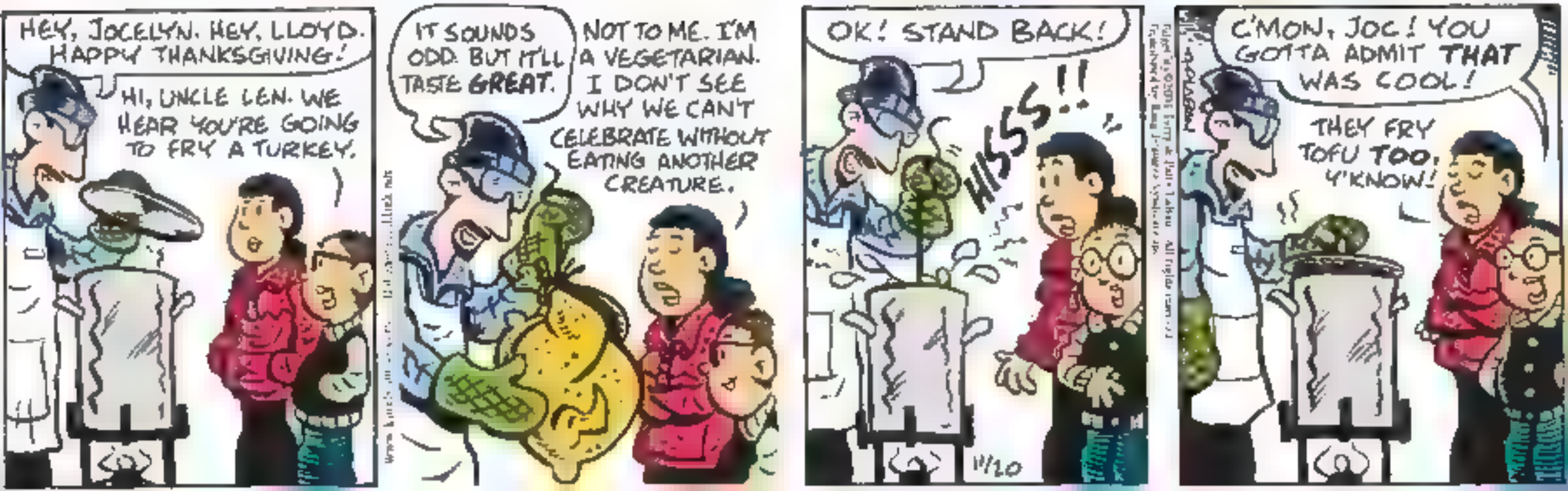

OF COURSE! OUR HOUSE IS PERFECTLY NICE!
ALSO, I WANTED TO TRY DEEP-FRYING THE TURKEY.


IF YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THANKSGIVING DINNER, TELL YOUR SISTER WE'LL BRING THE TURKEY. THEN I CAN TRY THIS DEEP-FRYING TECHNIQUE.
YOU WANT TO DEEP- / THE TURKEY?
IT'S THE LATEST TREND. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO TASTE AMAZING!
BUT LEN, SUZY'S SUCH A CONTROL FREAK! I CAN JUST IMAGINE HER WITH ALL HER ELEGANT SIDE DISHES AND US WITH A BIG, GREASY, FRIED BIRD!...
11/18
ACTUALLY, THIS COULD WORK.
TIP LABAN

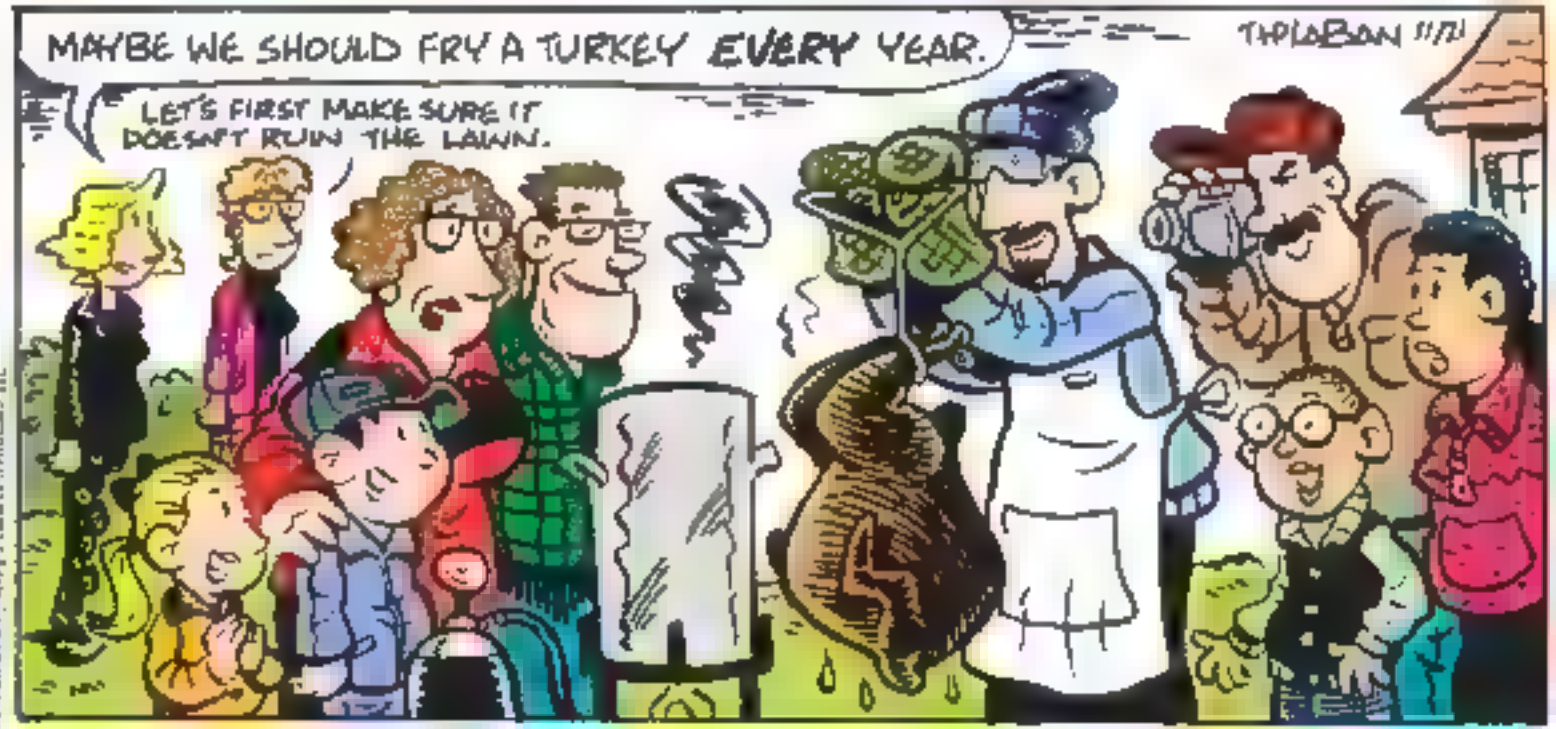

LOOK, ABBY--IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT WITH THANKSGIVING DINNER, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
SO, YOU DON'T MIND IF LEN AND I MAKE THE TURKEY?
THAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR SISTER. YOU'RE GROWNUPS NOW--I'M SURE YOU CAN WORK IT OUT WITHOUT ME!
11/16
YOU WANT TO BRING THE TURKEY? I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT MOM HAS TO SAY!
I TALKED TO HER, AND SHE SAID IT WAS OK!
STAR

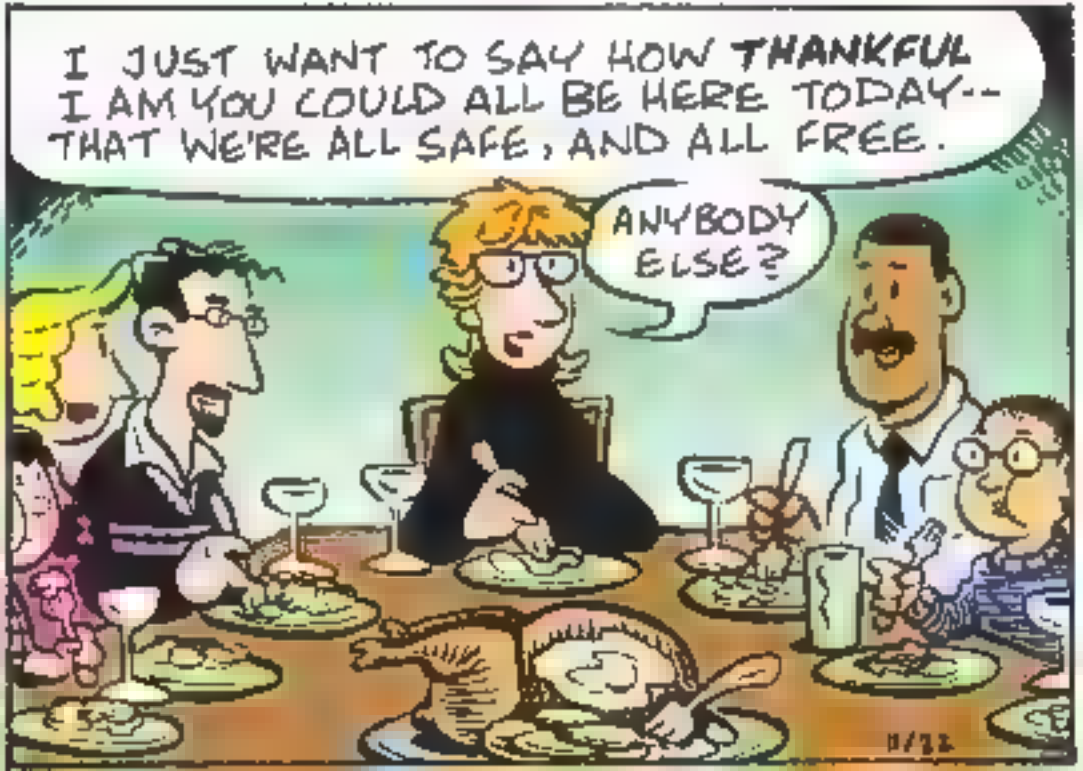
THANKSGIVING IS FUN, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE DIFFICULT.
WHEN FAMILIES GET TOGETHER, PEOPLE'S FEELINGS CAN GET HURT
ARE YOU WORRIED YOUR SISTER WILL RESENT US FOR INSISTING ON BRINGING THE TURKEY?
TAPLABAN
11/17
NO--FOR INSISTING ON FRYING IT IN 6 GALLONS OF OIL IN HER BACKYARD!
IN LOUISIANA, THEY SWEAR BY FRIED TURKEY. C'MON-- INJECT THE MARINADE!


WELCOME! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
THANKS, SUZY! THE HOUSE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL!
YOU ALWAYS PUT SO MUCH WORK INTO THE HOLIDAYS... ARRANGING FLOWERS, LAYING OUT THE CHINA..
WELL, I LIKE TO CREATE A CERTAIN AMBIANCE.
OF COURSE, IT'S A BIT MORE CHALLENGING WHEN GUESTS PLAN TO FRY WHOLE TURKEYS IN THE BACK YARD.
FRYER, PROPANE AND A GALLON OF OIL, COMIN' THROUGH!
11/19
TIP/ABAN

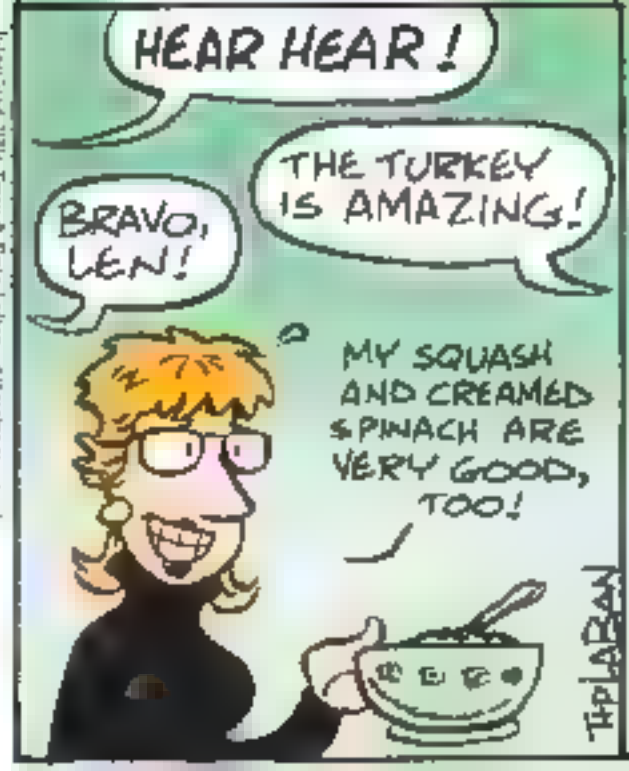

HEY, JOCELYN. HEY, LLOYD. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
HI, UNCLE LEN. WE HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO FRY A TURKEY.
IT SOUNDS ODD. BUT IT'LL TASTE GREAT.
NOT TO ME. I'M A VEGETARIAN. I DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T CELEBRATE WITHOUT EATING ANOTHER CREATURE.
OK! STAND BACK!
HISSS!!
11/20
C'MON, JOC! YOU GOTTA ADMIT THAT WAS COOL!
THEY FRY TOFU TOO, Y'KNOW!

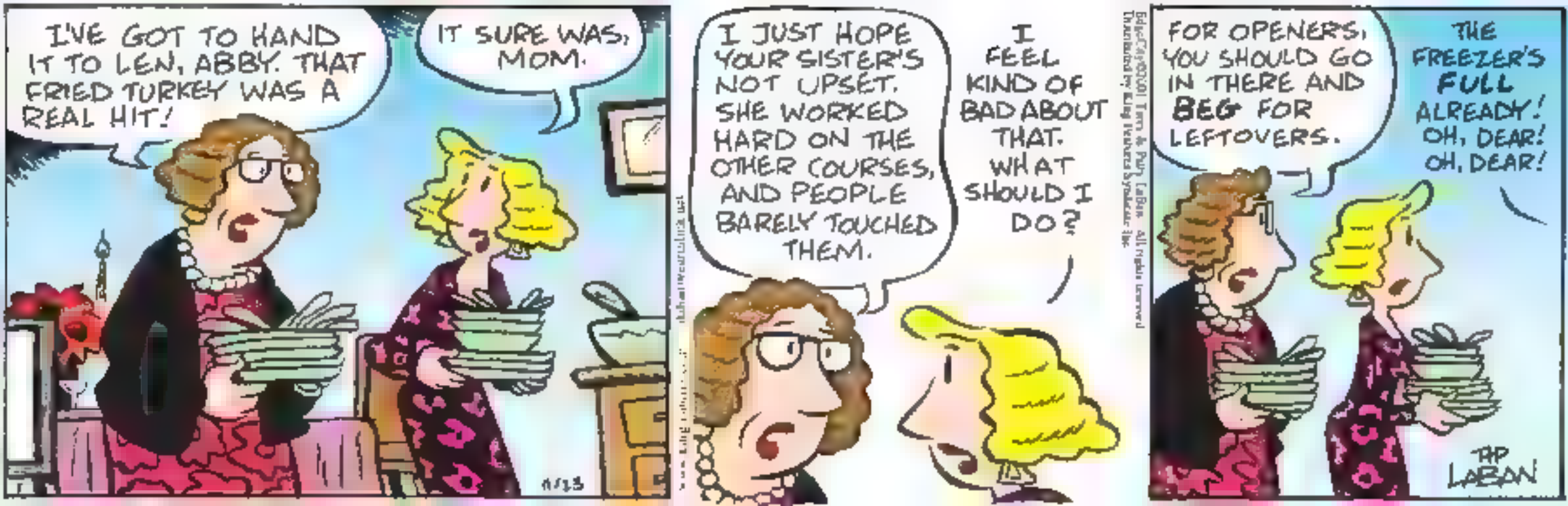
ISN'T THIS NICE? WE DON'T HAVE TO DRAG THE GUYS AWAY FROM THE FOOTBALL GAME OR MAKE THE KIDS STOP PLAYING. WE'RE REALLY TOGETHER THIS THANKSGIVING.

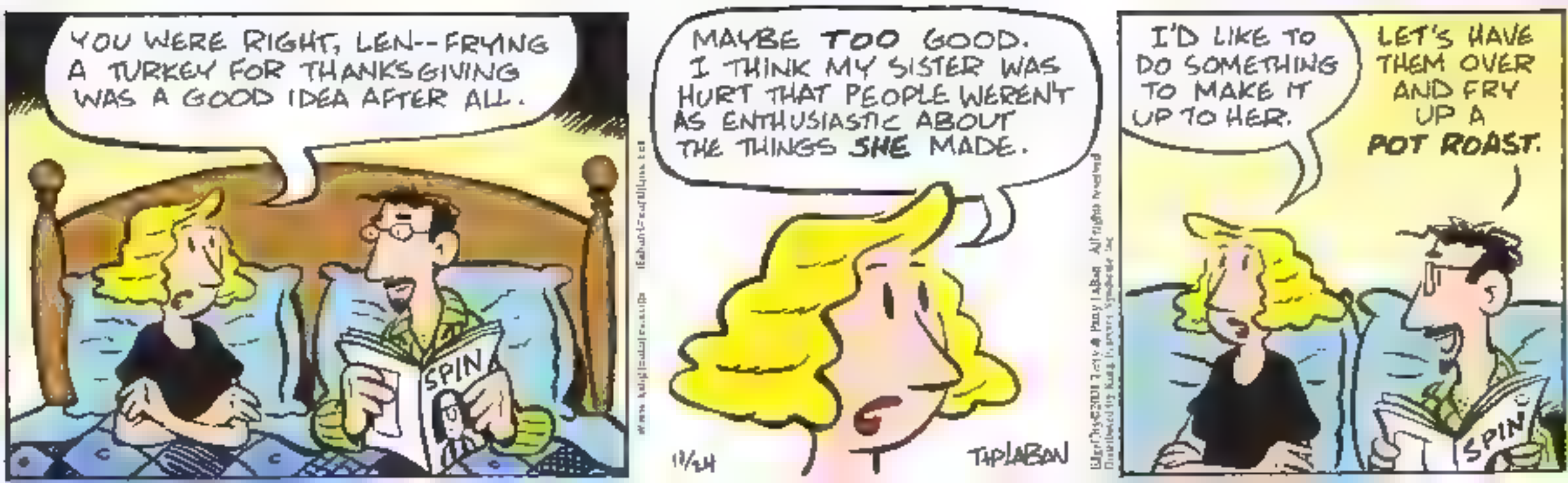

MAYBE WE SHOULD FRY A TURKEY EVERY YEAR.
LET'S FIRST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T RUIN THE LAWN.
TRIBLADON 11/21


I JUST WANT TO SAY HOW THANKFUL I AM YOU COULD ALL BE HERE TODAY-- THAT WE'RE ALL SAFE, AND ALL FREE.
ANYBODY ELSE?

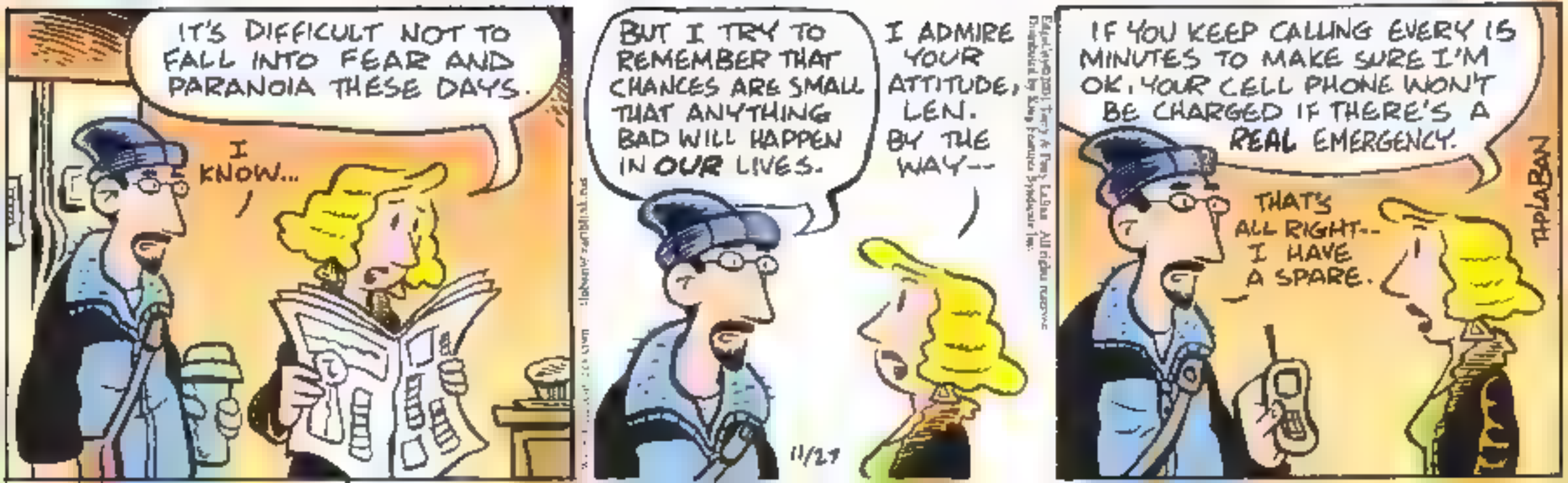
I'M THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY.
AND FOR MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL.
AND FOR UNCLE LEN'S FRIED TURKEY!


HEAR HEAR!
BRAVO, LEN!
THE TURKEY IS AMAZING!
MY SQUASH AND CREAMED SPINACH ARE VERY GOOD, TOO!
THaLaRAN


I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO LEN, ABBY. THAT FRIED TURKEY WAS A REAL HIT!
IT SURE WAS, MOM.
I JUST HOPE YOUR SISTER'S NOT UPSET. SHE WORKED HARD ON THE OTHER COURSES, AND PEOPLE BARELY TOUCHED THEM.
I FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT THAT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FOR OPENERS, YOU SHOULD GO IN THERE AND BEG FOR LEFTOVERS.
THE FREEZER'S FULL ALREADY! OH, DEAR! OH, DEAR!
TRP LABAN


YOU WERE RIGHT, LEN--FRYING A TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING WAS A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL.
SPIN
MAYBE TOO GOOD. I THINK MY SISTER WAS HURT THAT PEOPLE WEREN'T AS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE THINGS SHE MADE.
11/24
TAPLABAN
I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE IT UP TO HER.
LET'S HAVE THEM OVER AND FRY UP A POT ROAST.
SPIN

I WANTED TO DO SOME SHOPPING IN THE CITY, BUT I'M STILL A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT GOING DOWNTOWN.
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, ABBY.
BUT IF PEOPLE DON'T SPEND MONEY, THE ECONOMY WILL JUST GET WORSE. SHOPPING IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
I REGRET I HAVE ONLY ONE BANK ACCOUNT TO GIVE FOR MY COUNTRY!
WELL, DON'T GO CRAZY. OUR BUSINESS THIS QUARTER IS WAY DOWN.
11/26
TAPLABAN


IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO FALL INTO FEAR AND PARANOIA THESE DAYS.
I KNOW...
BUT I TRY TO REMEMBER THAT CHANCES ARE SMALL THAT ANYTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES.
I ADMIRE YOUR ATTITUDE, LEN. BY THE WAY--
11/27
IF YOU KEEP CALLING EVERY 15 MINUTES TO MAKE SURE I'M OK, YOUR CELL PHONE WON'T BE CHARGED IF THERE'S A REAL EMERGENCY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT-- I HAVE A SPARE.
TAPLABAN

I NEED A LITER OF SODA POP FOR WORK.
MART
11/28
IT LOOKS LIKE THE GUY WHO RUNS THIS PLACE IS MIDDLE-EASTERN. I WONDER IF HE HANGS OUT WITH TERRORISTS.
THAT ISN'T FAIR! WHY AM I THINKING IT? AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ON AN AIRPLANE!
WAIT--THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO THINK EITHER!
WAP! WAP!
HOLD ON--THERE'S A GUY HERE ACTING KIND OF STRANGE.
TPLABAN

EXCUSE ME, SIR--DO YOU INTEND TO BUY SOMETHING?
OF COURSE! WHY?
I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME FUNNY.
I'M SORRY. I SAW YOU WERE MIDDLE-EASTERN, AND STARTED THINKING ABOUT THINGS.
11/29
IT WAS JUST IRRATIONAL STUFF. I WAS TRYING TO WORK IT OUT IN MY HEAD.
I UNDERSTAND. EVERYONE'S A LITTLE EDGY THESE DAYS.
WELL--I SHOULD PROBABLY BE GETTING MY SODA POP.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BREAK MY WINDOWS, TAKE YOUR TIME.
THPIABAN

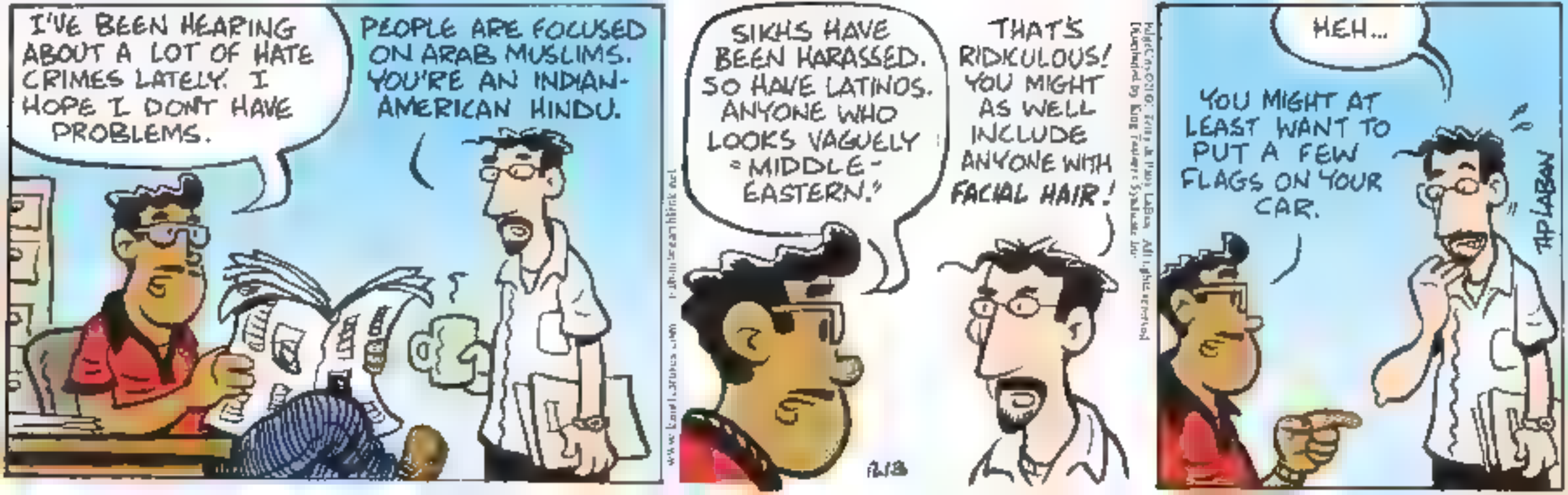
SORRY IF I'M A BIT JUMPY. IT'S NOT EASY BEING A MIDDLE-EASTERN SHOPKEEPER THESE DAYS.
THE GRAFFITI AND INSULTS WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH. BUT WE'VE LOST CUSTOMERS AND OUR SALES ARE DOWN.
11/30
IT HURTS BECAUSE I LOVE THIS COUNTRY AS MUCH AS ANYONE--MAYBE MORE. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A PLACE THAT ISN'T FREE!
I APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS, ANYWAY. $2.50, PLEASE.
OUT OF $20?
KEEP THE CHANGE.
T. PLABAN

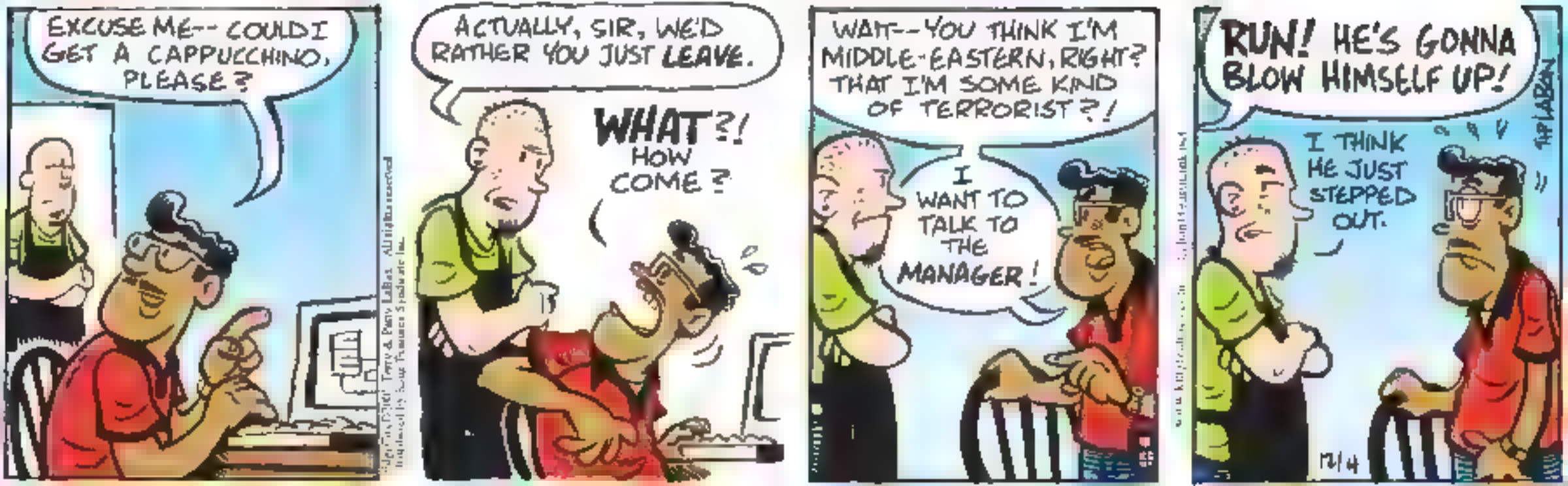
I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE STORE OWNER BECAUSE HE IS MIDDLE-EASTERN.

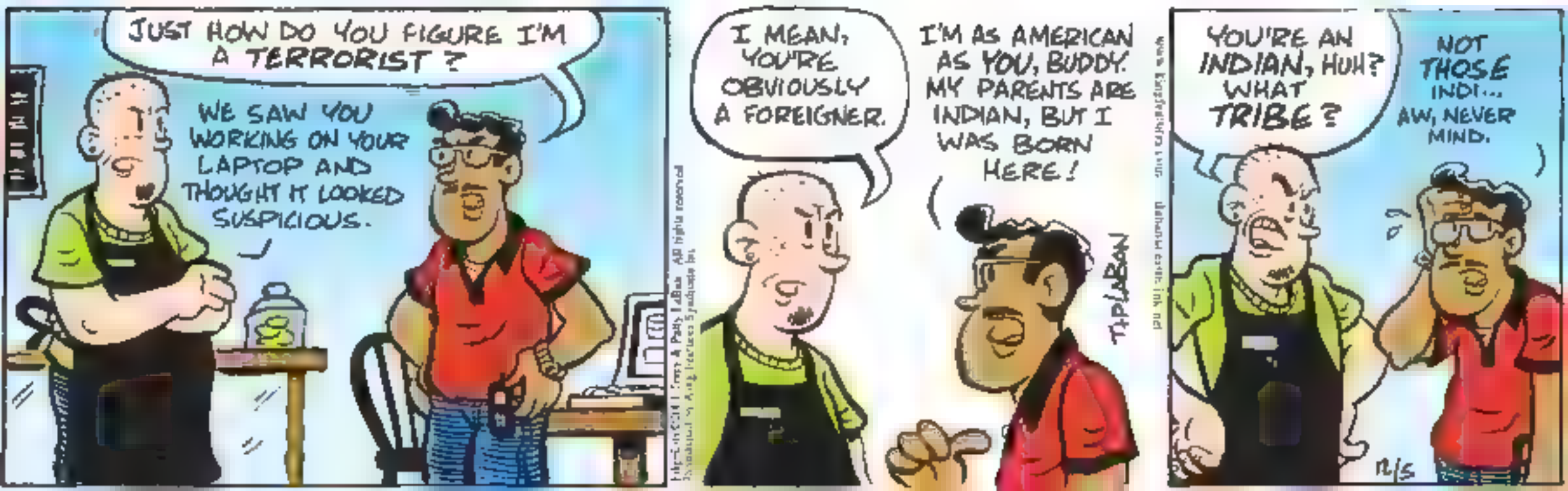
AND AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS AFRAID I'D COME IN TO MAKE TROUBLE.

WE COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER. IN A WAY, IT'S FUNNY.
SIR! WAIT!
12/1

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT.
I'M GIVING ALL MY CUSTOMERS A FREE FLAG!
TOLAGIAN


I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT A LOT OF HATE CRIMES LATELY. I HOPE I DONT HAVE PROBLEMS.
PEOPLE ARE FOCUSED ON ARAB MUSLIMS. YOU'RE AN INDIAN-AMERICAN HINDU.
SIKHS HAVE BEEN HARASSED. SO HAVE LATINOS. ANYONE WHO LOOKS VAGUELY "MIDDLE-EASTERN."
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! YOU MIGHT AS WELL INCLUDE ANYONE WITH FACIAL HAIR!
HEH...
YOU MIGHT AT LEAST WANT TO PUT A FEW FLAGS ON YOUR CAR.
TAP LABAN


EXCUSE ME-- COULD I GET A CAPPUCCHINO, PLEASE?
ACTUALLY, SIR, WE'D RATHER YOU JUST LEAVE.
WHAT?! HOW COME?
WAIT--YOU THINK I'M MIDDLE-EASTERN, RIGHT? THAT I'M SOME KIND OF TERRORIST?!
I WANT TO TALK TO THE MANAGER!
RUN! HE'S GONNA BLOW HIMSELF UP!
I THINK HE JUST STEPPED OUT.
12/4

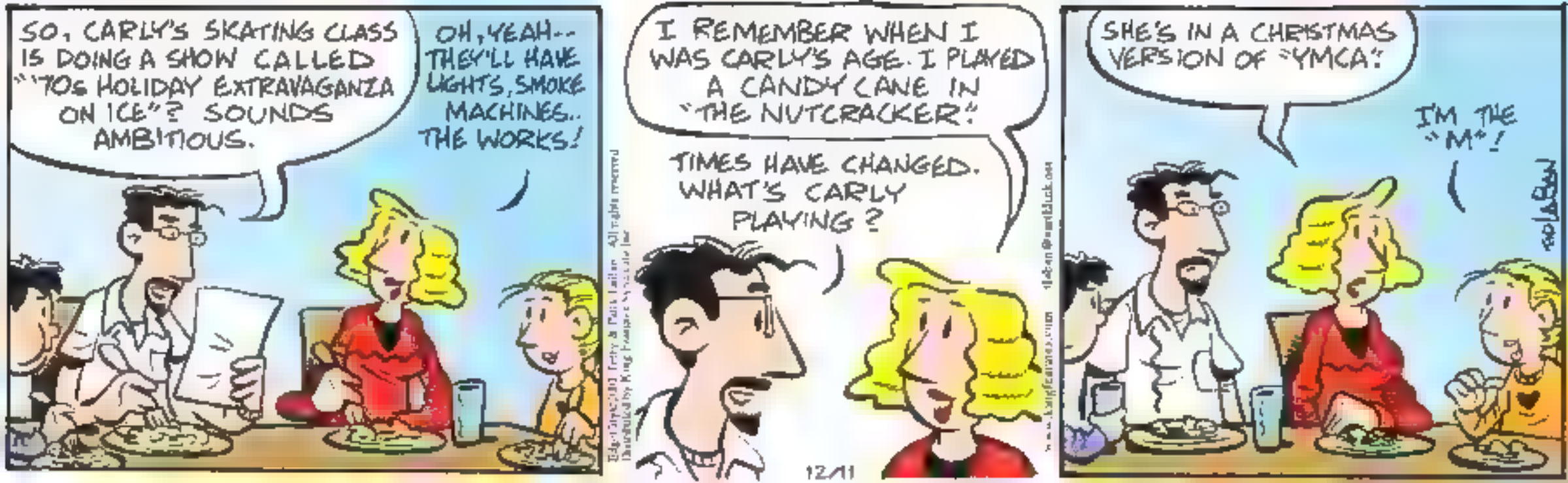

JUST HOW DO YOU FIGURE I'M A TERRORIST?
WE SAW YOU WORKING ON YOUR LAPTOP AND THOUGHT IT LOOKED SUSPICIOUS.
I MEAN, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A FOREIGNER.
I'M AS AMERICAN AS YOU, BUDDY. MY PARENTS ARE INDIAN, BUT I WAS BORN HERE!
TIPLADAN
YOU'RE AN INDIAN, HUH? WHAT TRIBE?
NOT THOSE INDI... AW, NEVER MIND.

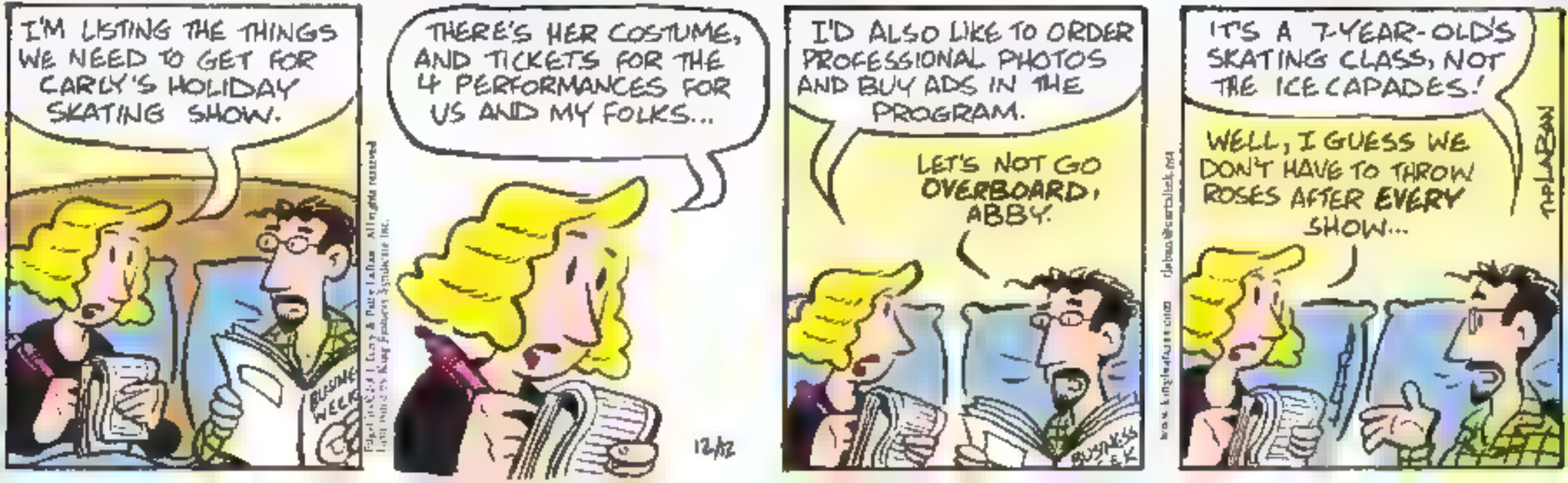
SORRY I'M LATE, RAJIV. WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE REFUSING TO SERVE ME BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M A TERRORIST!
TAPLABAN
THAT'S CRAZY! NOT ONLY ISN'T HE A TERRORIST-- HE'S MY BUSINESS PARTNER!
MAYBE SO. BUT HE FIT THE PROFILE.
12/6
BECAUSE HE HAS A DARK COMPLEXION?
HE ALSO HAS A MOUSTACHE AND WAS SENDING E-MAIL!

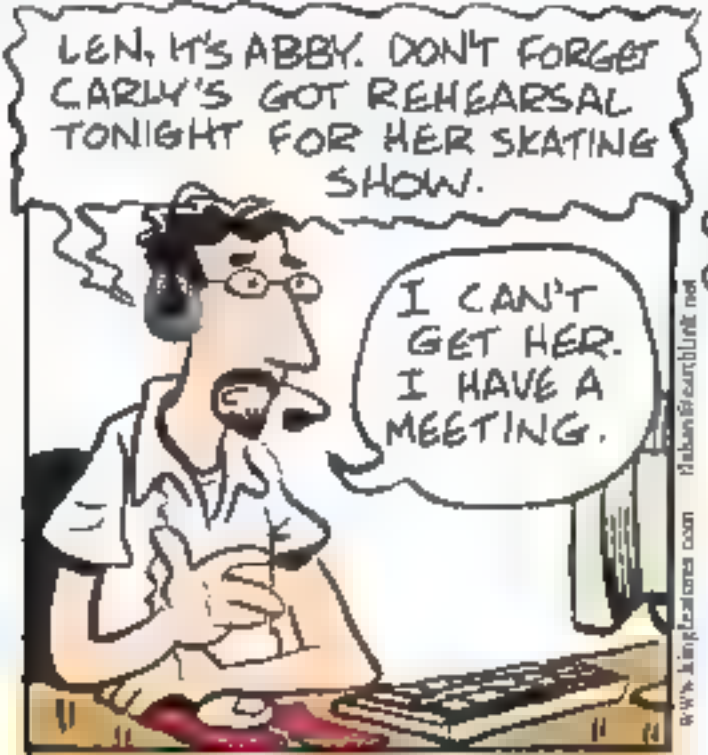
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT A TERRORIST. BUT IT'S MY PATRIOTIC DUTY TO ASK QUESTIONS IF I SUSPECT SOMETHING.
I'M A PATRIOT TOO, PAL. AND I'LL TELL YOU THIS...
...IF YOU HARASS EVERY ETHNIC-LOOKING CUSTOMER WHO COMES IN HERE, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY CUSTOMERS LEFT!
THPLABAN
12/1
THINGS HAVE BEEN KIND OF SLOW LATELY.
C'MON... LET'S GO.

HAVING THAT COFFEE SHOP WAITER SUSPECT ME OF BEING A TERRORIST WAS A HUMILIATING EXPERIENCE.
HE REFUSED YOU SERVICE. YOU COULD SUE OVER THAT.
IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP, MAYBE I WOULD. BUT IT WASN'T JUST DISCRIMINATION-- IT WAS FEAR.
I USED TO THINK THAT WITH ENOUGH EXPENSIVE LAWYERS, YOU COULD HANDLE ANY PROBLEM IN THE WORLD.
THAT ALREADY SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO.
12/18
THOLABAN

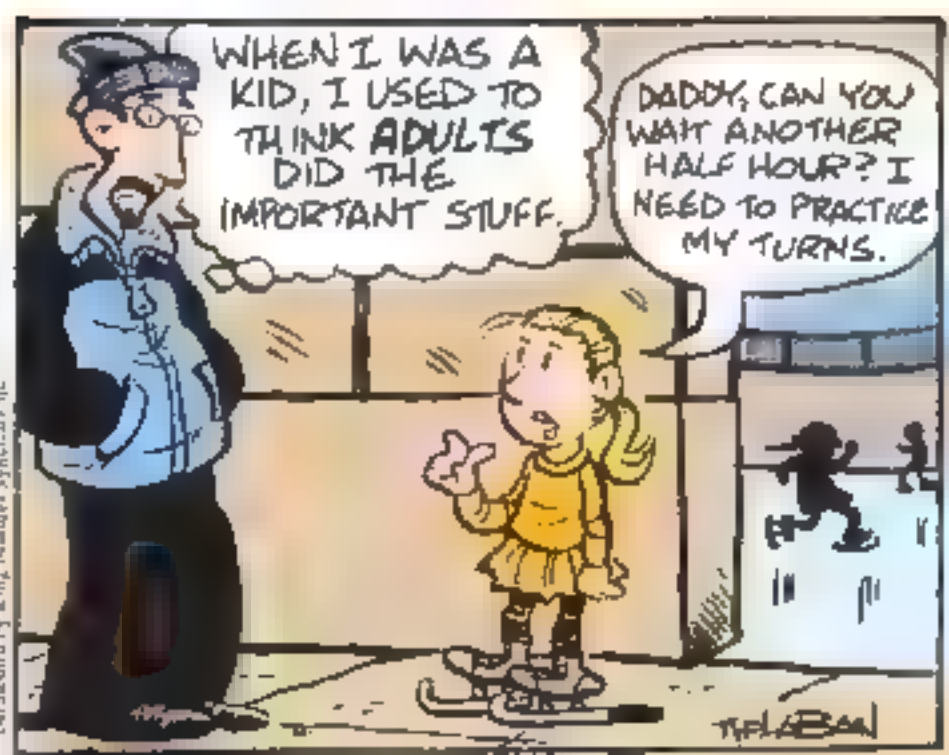
HEY, LEN-- IT'S ABBY. I'M PICKING UP CARLY AT HER SKATING CLASS.
12/10
Y'KNOW, THEY'RE HAVING THEIR HOLIDAY SHOW NEXT WEEK. IT'S GOING TO BE DEMANDING.
I'M SURE CARLY'S UP FOR IT.
I MEANT FOR US.
GIRLS, STARTING THIS WEEK, WE'LL BE REHEARSING EVERY EVENING FOR "'70S HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA ON ICE"!
TRUBAN

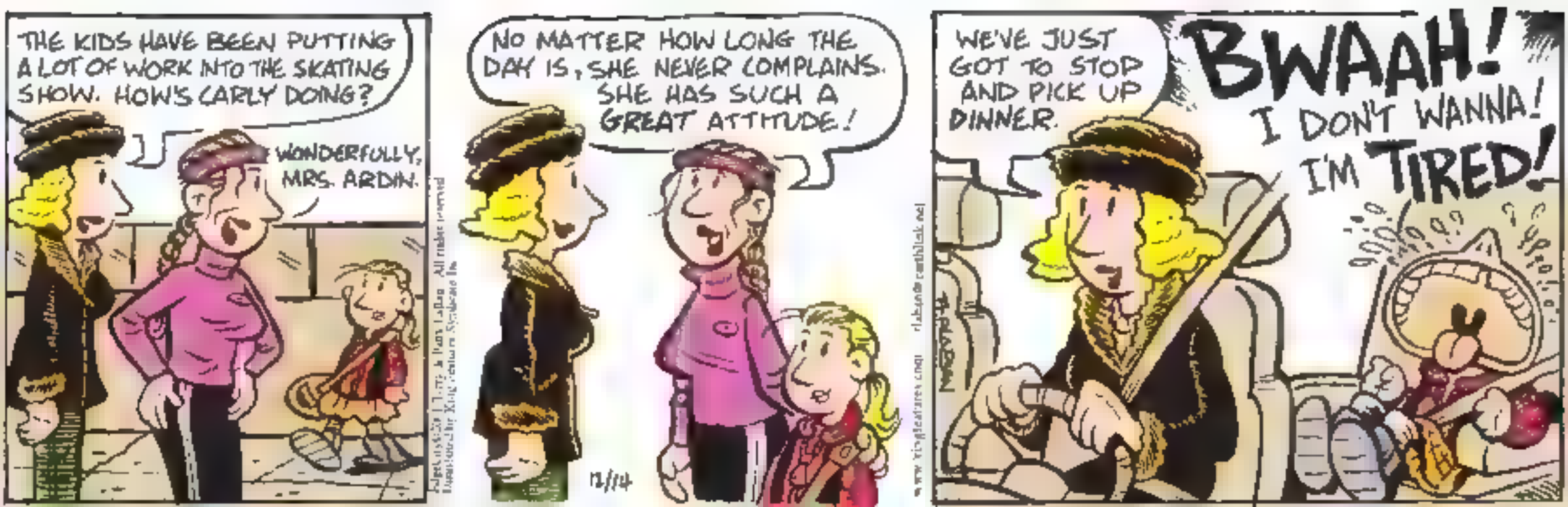

SO, CARLY'S SKATING CLASS IS DOING A SHOW CALLED "'70s HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA ON ICE"? SOUNDS AMBITIOUS.
OH, YEAH-- THEY'LL HAVE LIGHTS, SMOKE MACHINES.. THE WORKS!
I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS CARLY'S AGE. I PLAYED A CANDY CANE IN "THE NUTCRACKER."
TIMES HAVE CHANGED. WHAT'S CARLY PLAYING?
12/11
SHE'S IN A CHRISTMAS VERSION OF "YMCA".
I'M THE "M"!


I'M LISTING THE THINGS WE NEED TO GET FOR CARLY'S HOLIDAY SKATING SHOW.
THERE'S HER COSTUME, AND TICKETS FOR THE 4 PERFORMANCES FOR US AND MY FOLKS...
12/12
I'D ALSO LIKE TO ORDER PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS AND BUY ADS IN THE PROGRAM.
LET'S NOT GO OVERBOARD, ABBY.
IT'S A 7-YEAR-OLD'S SKATING CLASS, NOT THE ICE CAPADES!
WELL, I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE TO THROW ROSES AFTER EVERY SHOW...
TOLAPAN

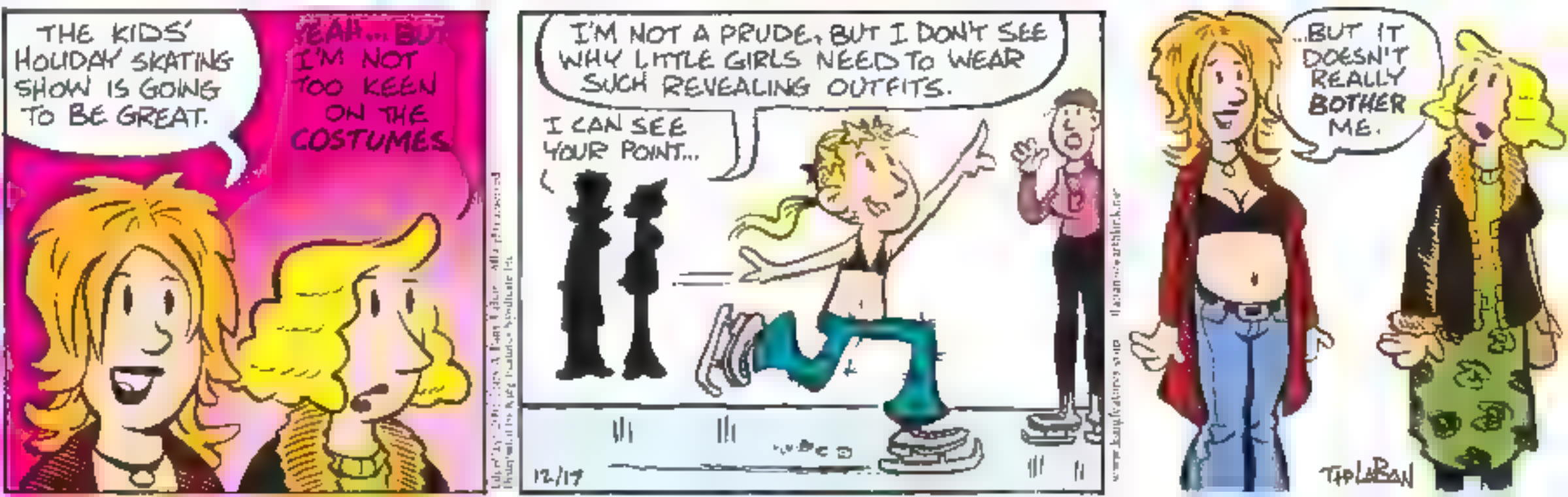

LEN, IT'S ABBY. DON'T FORGET CARLY'S GOT REHEARSAL TONIGHT FOR HER SKATING SHOW.
I CAN'T GET HER. I HAVE A MEETING.

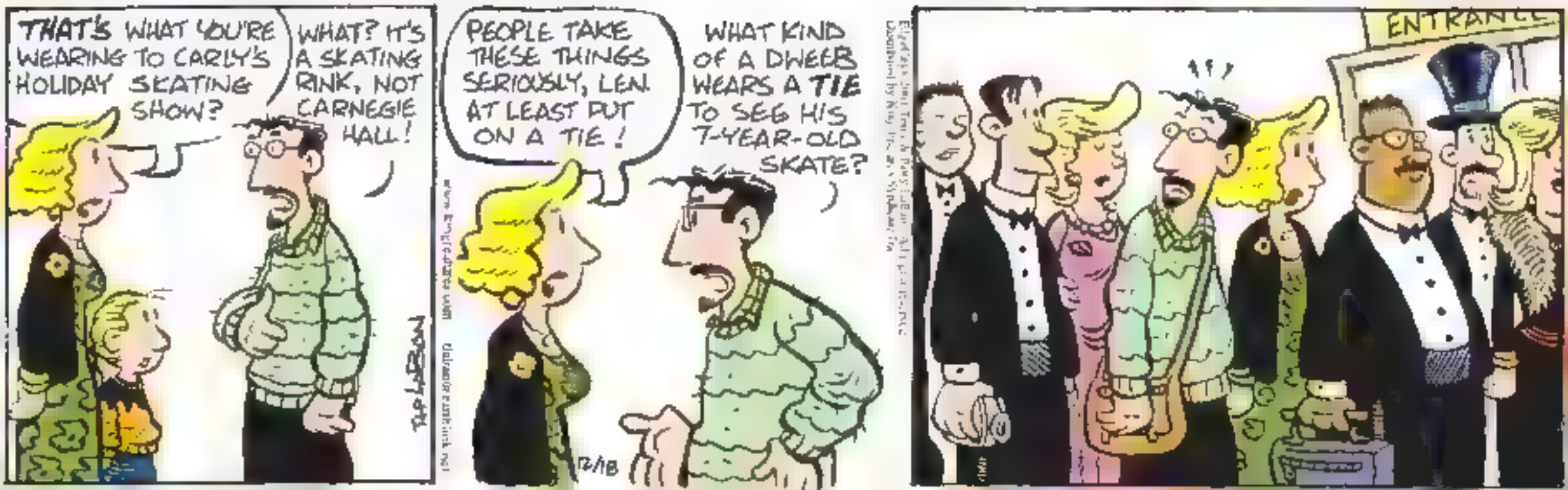
CAN'T YOU RESCHEDULE IT? I'M GOING TO BE DOWNTOWN TILL 5:00!
SIGH: RAJIV WON'T BE TOO HAPPY. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK!
12/13


WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO THINK ADULTS DID THE IMPORTANT STUFF.
DADDY, CAN YOU WAIT ANOTHER HALF HOUR? I NEED TO PRACTICE MY TURNS.

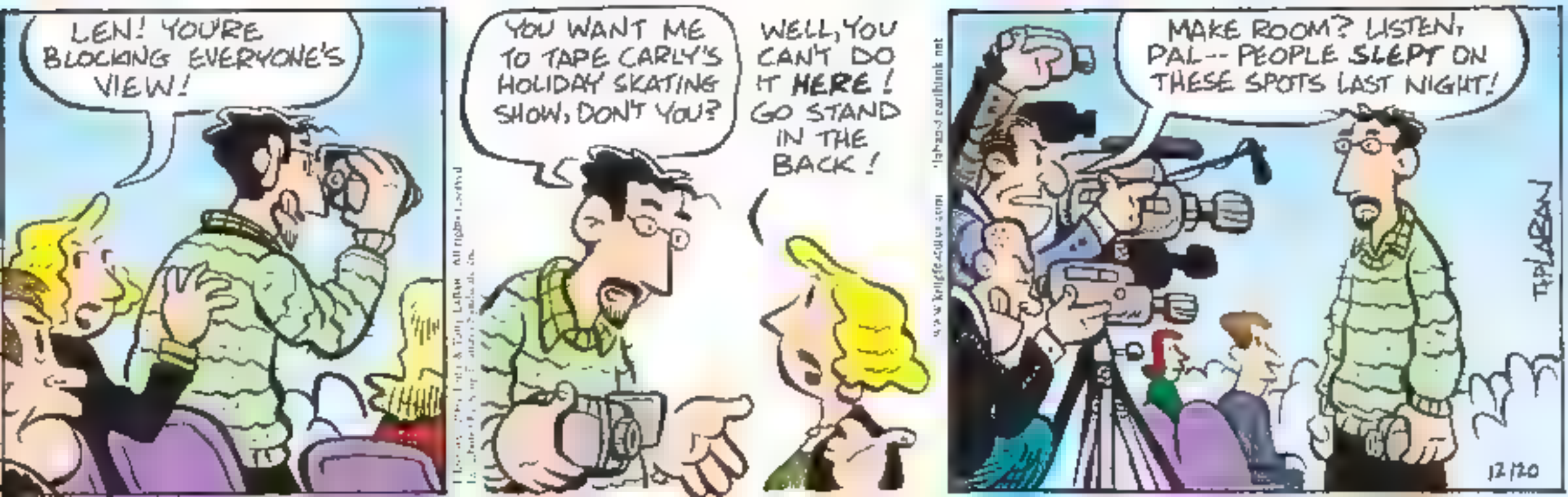

THE KIDS HAVE BEEN PUTTING A LOT OF WORK INTO THE SKATING SHOW. HOW'S CARLY DOING?
WONDERFULLY, MRS. ARDIN.
NO MATTER HOW LONG THE DAY IS, SHE NEVER COMPLAINS. SHE HAS SUCH A GREAT ATTITUDE!
12/14
WE'VE JUST GOT TO STOP AND PICK UP DINNER.
BWAAH!
I DON'T WANNA! I'M TIRED!

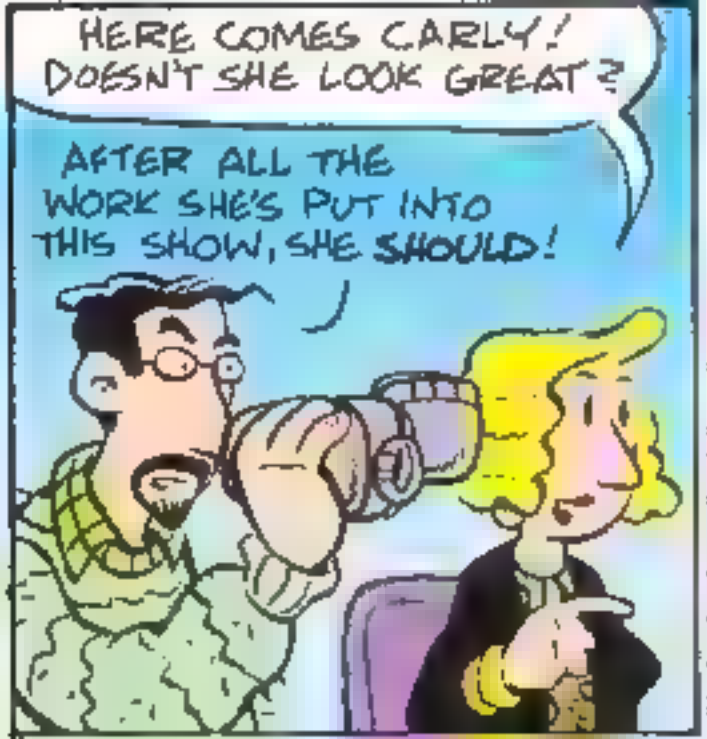
CARLY'S SKATING CLASS HAS BEEN VERY DEMANDING.
THEY EXPECT THE KIDS TO ACT LIKE LITTLE PROFESSIONALS. I'M WORRIED IT'S AFFECTING HER SELF-ESTEEM.
SHE'S HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING UP, HUH?
12/15
NO--THAT'S NOT IT.
MOTHER, I'M AN ARTIST. YOU CANNOT EXPECT ME TO EAT FROZEN PEAS!

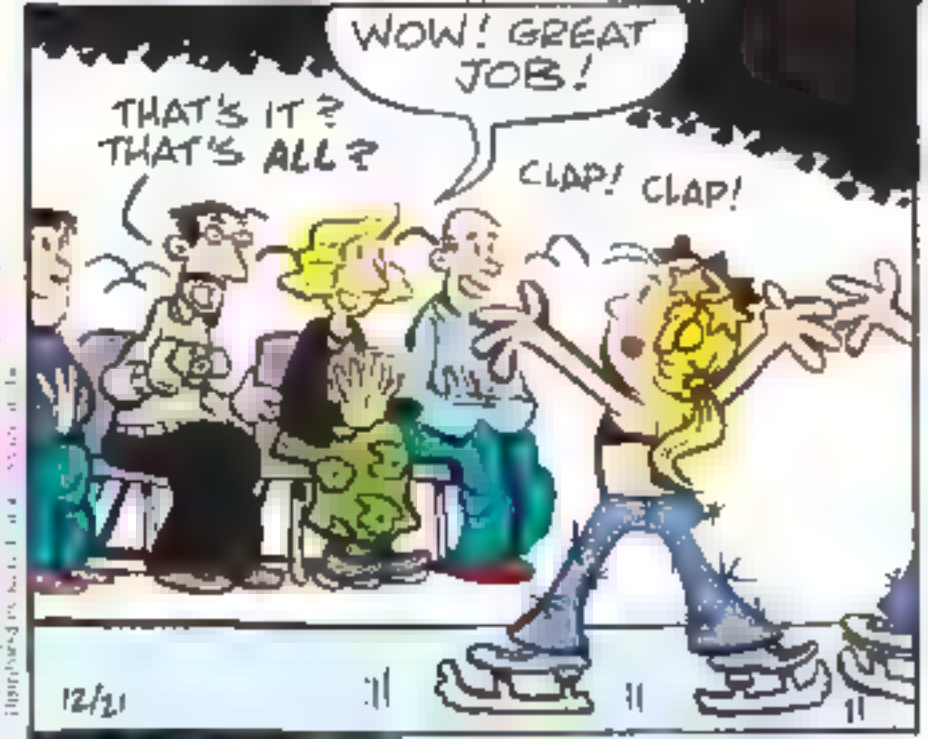

THE KIDS' HOLIDAY SKATING SHOW IS GOING TO BE GREAT.
YEAH... BUT I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON THE COSTUMES.
I'M NOT A PRUDE, BUT I DON'T SEE WHY LITTLE GIRLS NEED TO WEAR SUCH REVEALING OUTFITS.
I CAN SEE YOUR POINT...
12/17
...BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME.
THPLeBAN


THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WEARING TO CARLY'S HOLIDAY SKATING SHOW?
WHAT? IT'S A SKATING RINK, NOT CARNEGIE HALL!
PEOPLE TAKE THESE THINGS SERIOUSLY, LEN. AT LEAST PUT ON A TIE!
WHAT KIND OF A DWEEB WEARS A TIE TO SEE HIS 7-YEAR-OLD SKATE?
12/18
ENTRANCE

OK, HONEY--WE'LL ALL BE IN THE AUDIENCE, WATCHING YOU SKATE.
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS, MOM.
YOU'LL DO GREAT!
WE'RE ROOTIN' FOR YA!
BREAK A LEG!
12/19
WAAH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY!

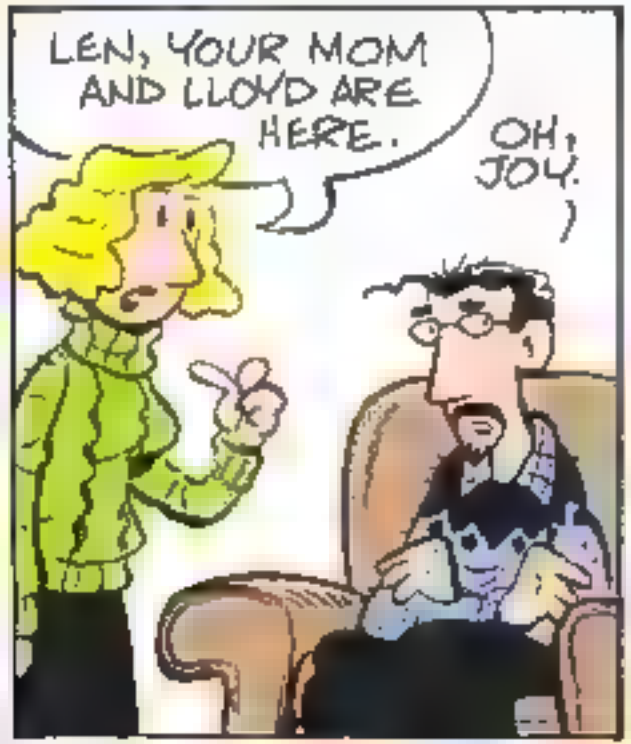

LEN! YOU'RE BLOCKING EVERYONE'S VIEW!
YOU WANT ME TO TAPE CARLY'S HOLIDAY SKATING SHOW, DON'T YOU?
WELL, YOU CAN'T DO IT HERE! GO STAND IN THE BACK!
MAKE ROOM? LISTEN, PAL-- PEOPLE SLEPT ON THESE SPOTS LAST NIGHT!
TOPLABAN
12/20


HERE COMES CARLY! DOESN'T SHE LOOK GREAT?
AFTER ALL THE WORK SHE'S PUT INTO THIS SHOW, SHE SHOULD!


WOW! GREAT JOB!
THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL?
CLAP! CLAP!
12/21

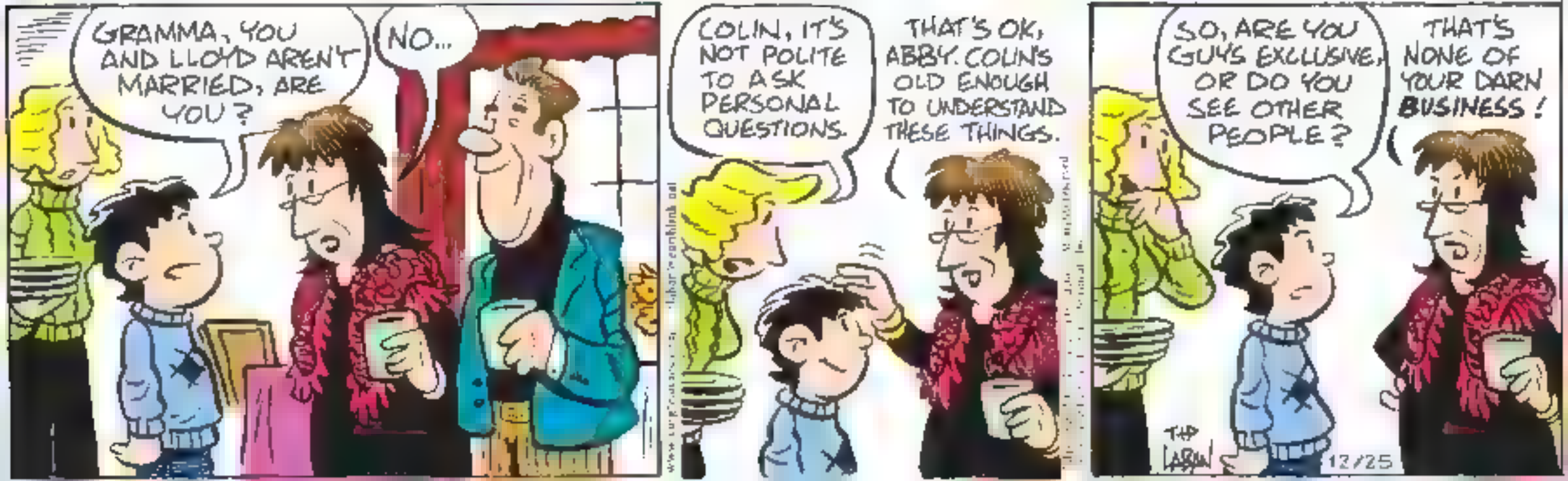
TWO WEEKS OF SHLEPPING HER TO REHEARSALS, AND SHE'S NOT EVEN ON 5 MINUTES?!
WORRY ABOUT IT LATER. RIGHT NOW, SHE GETS A STANDING OVATION!
T+P LABAN

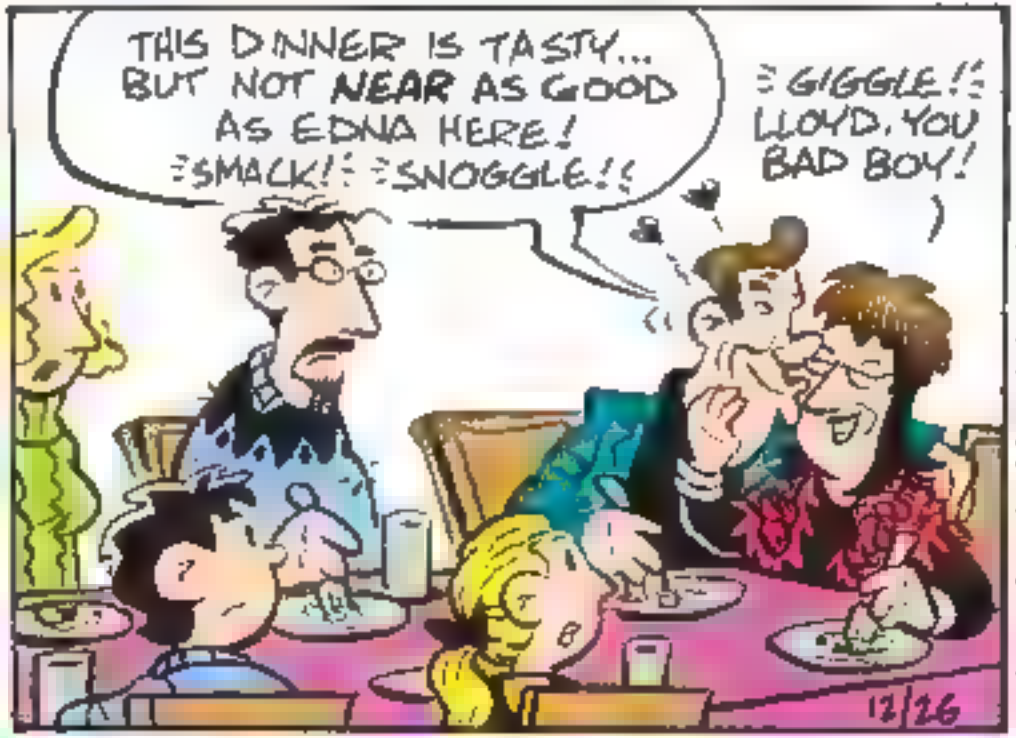
MAN, I'M SURE GLAD CARLY'S SKATING SHOW IS OVER.
TRYING TO FIT ALL HER REHEARSALS INTO OUR SCHEDULES WAS A NIGHTMARE. I'M READY FOR SOME NORMALCY AROUND HERE.
12/22
YOUR MOTHER'S COMING TO VISIT US NEXT WEEK.
I'D ALSO CONSIDER LIVING AT MY OFFICE TILL AFTER NEW YEAR'S...
TRIBLADAN


LEN, YOUR MOM AND LLOYD ARE HERE.
OH, JOY.

C'MON--AT LEAST TRY TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
IT'S JUST THAT I KNOW IT WON'T BE 5 MINUTES BEFORE THEY SAY SOMETHING INCONSIDERATE.
12/24

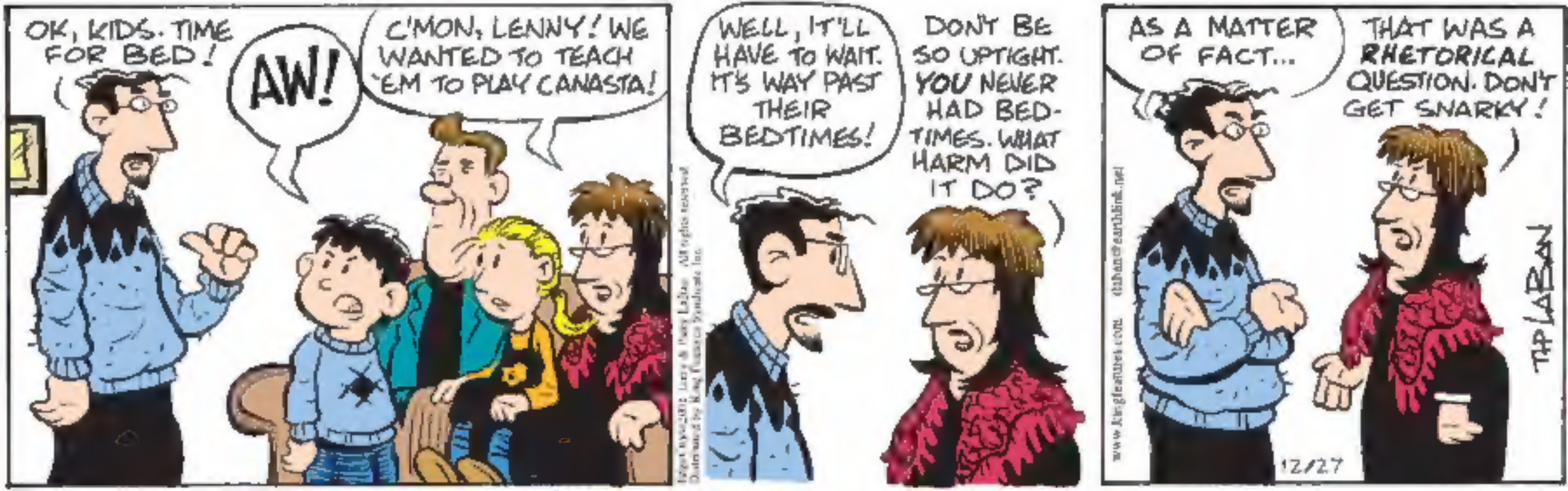
MERRY CHRISTMAS! YOU READY FOR THE GOOD PRESENTS?
LET'S SEE-- 3 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS.
TOP LABSON


GRAMMA, YOU AND LLOYD AREN'T MARRIED, ARE YOU?
NO...
COLIN, IT'S NOT POLITE TO ASK PERSONAL QUESTIONS.
THAT'S OK, ABBY. COLIN'S OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS.
SO, ARE YOU GUYS EXCLUSIVE, OR DO YOU SEE OTHER PEOPLE?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR DARN BUSINESS!
THAD LARSON
12/25


THIS DINNER IS TASTY... BUT NOT NEAR AS GOOD AS EDNA HERE! :SMACK!: :SNOGGLE!:
:GIGGLE!: LLOYD, YOU BAD BOY!
12/26

COULD YOU GUYS SAVE IT TILL LATER?
WHAT'S WRONG, LENNY? DON'T LIKE TO SEE YOUR MOM HAVE A LITTLE FUN?

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT I'M SEEING.
GOSH, GRAMMA-- YOU LIKE IT WHEN HE SLOBBERS ON YOU LIKE THAT?
THPLABAN


OK, KIDS. TIME FOR BED!
AW!
C'MON, LENNY! WE WANTED TO TEACH 'EM TO PLAY CANASTA!
WELL, IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT. IT'S WAY PAST THEIR BEDTIMES!
DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT. YOU NEVER HAD BEDTIMES. WHAT HARM DID IT DO?
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
THAT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION. DON'T GET SNARKY!
12/27
TIM LABAN

MOM, I'M GLAD YOU AND LLOYD ARE SO HAPPY. I JUST WISH YOU'D COOL IT WHEN THE KIDS ARE AROUND.
C'MON, LENNY-- DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT!
I'M NOT SOME DRIED-UP OLD LADY, AND I'M NOT GOING TO ACT LIKE ONE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, EITHER.
12/28
AT AN AGE WHEN I OUGHT TO BE WORRYING ABOUT YOU GETTING OLD, I'M STILL WONDERING IF YOU'LL EVER GROW UP!
MOST PEOPLE FIND THAT CHARMING!
T&P LABAN

MOM'S NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW HER AND DAD'S DIVORCE AFFECTED US.
ALL SHE CARED ABOUT WAS HER OWN FULFILLMENT. SHE MADE A MESS WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO SORT OUT FOR 25 YEARS.
12/29
I THINK YOU COULD REALLY USE SOME THERAPY.
THERAPY? C'MON! WHAT FOR?

MY MOM AND LLOYD REALLY LIVE IN THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLD. THEY ACT LIKE OUR FEELINGS DON'T MATTER AT ALL.
THEY'RE NOT SO BAD, LEN.
FOR INSTANCE, THEY TOOK THE KIDS TO THE MALL TODAY. IT WAS NICE TO HAVE SOME TIME TO MYSELF.
12/31
THERE'LL BE A DOWNSIDE. JUST WAIT.
MOM! DAD! LOOK WHAT WE GOT!
MEOW!
THPLABAN